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MR. CHAMBERLAIN CLIMBS DOWN.

THE letter which the *Times* publishes this morning from Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will astonish the friends of that gentleman not a little. When last week he promptly accepted Mr. PARNELL'S challenge and declared his determination to publish "in a few days a full statement of the communications initiated by him which passed between us in 1884 and 1885" every one supposed that he had something to publish. Mr. PARNELL had written asking, "if Mr. CHAMBERLAIN had proofs in his (Mr. PARNELL'S) handwriting, why does he not publish them?" Mr. PARNELL further asserted that if he published his alleged proofs "they would fully establish the entire consistency of my private with my public declarations upon the subject of Irish local government." And then he added, "The publication will neither substantiate Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S truthfulness nor vindicate his candour." Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S letter which we reproduce elsewhere confirms Mr. PARNELL'S contention in the most explicit manner. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN instead of demolishing Mr. PARNELL now "finds a difficulty in ascertaining what is now the issue between us," and after reading Mr. PARNELL'S letter carefully over he "does not think that upon this point (that of the National Board) there is now any conflict of testimony between Mr. PARNELL and myself." In other words, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, having accepted Mr. PARNELL'S challenge, and looking over the documents the publication of which was to demolish the Irish leader, comes to the conclusion that they entirely confirm Mr. PARNELL'S version of the affair. Controversy, therefore, ceases. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN admits that it was he who was mistaken, and Mr. PARNELL'S accuracy and candour are vindicated by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN himself.

After this welcome confirmation of the accuracy of Mr. PARNELL'S version of the negotiations—a version which, by the way, was first published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on January 1, 1887—it is with considerable hesitation that we accept Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S account of the Crimes Act negotiations of 1885, even as a matter for discussion. But it is worth while noting how Mr. CHAMBERLAIN climbs down on this question also. The original statement as made by Mr. O'SHEA was that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN had in his possession "Mr. PARNELL'S own Coercion Bill." This was a copy of the Crimes Act "altered by his own hand into the form in which he proposed that it should be passed with just enough show of opposition in the House of Commons to satisfy those concerned." Mr. PARNELL in reply characterized this as an astounding statement, and challenged Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to print "the alleged document with alterations by my own hand in brackets." "I accept the challenge," wrote Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, and by way of making good his words he forwards to the *Times*, not the original, not a facsimile of this important document, but the following statement:—

Some time in the spring of 1885 Mr. O'SHEA brought me a copy of the Prevention of Crimes Act, 1882, on which the clauses to which Mr. PARNELL objected had been struck out by his own hand. I find on inspection of this document that the following clauses remain as constituting the Bill to which at that time Mr. PARNELL had no serious objection.

Now, it would appear from this that there is not a scrap of Mr. PARNELL'S handwriting visible in the Bill. Certain clauses are struck out; of proof that Mr. PARNELL struck them out there appears to be none. But supposing that he did strike them out, what reason is there other than the assurance of Mr. O'SHEA that Mr. PARNELL agreed to accept the renewal of the remains of the Act? It is quite possible for a man to draw his pen through the most objectionable clauses of a Bill, and say, on no account whatsoever will I even consent to discuss such proposals, but that in no way commits him to an acceptance of the rest of the clauses. Neither, it may be noted, does Mr. CHAMBERLAIN supply the least trace of confirmation of Mr. O'SHEA'S story about passing the Act with just enough show of opposition in the House to satisfy those concerned. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN therefore may be said to give away his case. All that he has to show is a copy of the Crimes Act of 1882, on which are various erasures, which are alleged to have been made by Mr. PARNELL,

but beyond that nothing. It would have been better not to have boasted so loudly if he had no better cards up his sleeve than this.

The issue of this attempt to prove that Mr. PARNELL was guilty of double dealing is very satisfactory to those who have throughout this controversy relied upon the honesty of the Irish leader. It must be not a little humiliating to those who have been so misguided as to rely upon the declarations of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. It justifies strong suspicion that the "evidence" on which the *Times* relies is equally worthless. It is now Mr. PARNELL'S turn.

WITH THE FRENCH NAVVIES ON STRIKE.

PARIS, Sunday.



I SPENT the whole of yesterday among the "grévistes terrassiers"—Anglicised, the strike navvies—and whatever may be the end of the present movement, whether the men are starved into submission, or the contractors knock under, or the whole struggle ends in bloodshed and street-fighting, it is certain that the strike itself is an entirely *bona fide* working men's movement, led neither by Socialists nor by Anarchists, nor by any political agitators whatever, but by the navvies themselves, by themselves and for themselves. It is emphatically true, as Louise Michel said to me on Thursday, that there are no leaders. The figure that stands out the most prominently for the outside world is that of the Citoyen Boulé, secretary to the strike committee; he himself is a

stonemason by trade, and it is in his capacity of Conseiller Prudhomme, as the elected representative of the working men on that body, that he has placed his time and experience at the service of the men on strike. He is a strongly-built, intelligent-looking man of about forty, who for the last ten years has taken an active share in all the trade disputes of Paris, but he aspires to be neither a politician nor a leader. It is through his courtesy that I have been able to come into personal contact with the grévistes themselves. I found him at the offices of the *Cri du Peuple*, which since the closing last week of the Bourse du Travail has opened its doors freely to the strike committee. The Citoyen Boulé, declared himself delighted to give any information, and on his invitation we made our way forthwith to the réunion of the men on strike, held every morning at ten o'clock at the Salle Pétrelle in the Faubourg Montmartre.

AT A MEETING OF THE STRIKERS.

This hall, the only one the use of which the navvies have been able to obtain, opens out of a wine-shop, and when we had pushed our way through the crowds of blue-bloused "terrassiers" who hung round the doors and struggled up on to the platform, the sight was a striking one. At night the salle is used for theatrical purposes, and the gaudy landscapes of blue mountains and impossible green palms which decorated the walls made an absurdly incongruous background for the serious business on hand. The place was crammed with some six or seven hundred men, spreading into the passages, the wine-shop, and out into the street. On the little stage were the Comité de la Grève, some half-dozen working men. Nothing could have been more democratic, more orderly, more suggestive of serious purpose, and of steady, unanimous action, than the tone of the meeting. Not a black coat was to be seen—indeed, hardly a stuff one; nothing but a general vista of blue blouses with straw hats shading the eager, sun-burned faces. On the whole, a distinctly fine, strongly-made set of men, these "terrassiers;" then it

must be borne in mind that not one of them is a Parisian born; many come, like the omnibus horses, from Normandy, from Picardy, and a good many from Belgium, though the difference of nationality makes no perceptible distinction among the men themselves. The heat in the hall was stifling, but no one had time for complaints. A working man, Citoyen Charpentier by name, was voted into the chair, and his big bell kept excellent order. Secretary Boulé made his statement in studiously moderate language, telling how at a meeting of the entrepreneurs on Friday night, after a noisy and violent debate, the offer of the strike committee to reduce their demands to 55 centimes an hour had been scornfully rejected, adding that the day of concessions was past, and all they could do now was to stick bravely to one another. Vociferous cheers and shouts of "Vive la grève!" filled the hall; a contractor who had slipped in unobserved hurriedly took his departure on being recognized amid a howl of execration. Then there were more speeches from various "terrassiers," growing somewhat in violence as the speaking warmed up, and broken into by occasional shouts of "A bas Floquet; vive la révolution sociale!" But, on the whole, politics were studiously avoided; the "terrassiers" themselves are specially anxious not to be identified with any political group whatever.

Judging from the manner of the men, I should say there was not the slightest probability of their giving in at present. As we left the hall I talked to several: no one is more easy to make friends with than the French ouvrier, when his suspicions have not been aroused, and in the midst of the most tragic circumstances he maintains a capacity for easy, light-hearted chat. "Ah, dame, nous tenons ferme!" they exclaimed, with a friendly grasp of the hand. One good-looking young fellow had worked for some years on the railways at Folkestone and Dover, and gave it as his opinion that though wages in England were higher, the cost of living entirely absorbed any apparent advantage, and that, taken all round, the conditions of labour for the navy were practically identical in both countries.

THE REJECTION OF ARBITRATION.

This obstinate refusal on the part of the entrepreneurs to entertain any proposals for a compromise is undoubtedly of great importance, and destroys all the hopes which the tranquillity of the last two days had raised. When, a fortnight ago, the delegates of the men on strike appealed to the entrepreneurs to state their conditions, the acting committee returned for an answer that the entrepreneurs left the whole question to the decision of the municipal commission, who had chosen to interfere in the matter. But when the commission formally proposed to act as arbitrators, the contractors refused to recognize them. It is stated that nineteen contractors had pronounced themselves publicly in favour of arbitration, and on Friday night, when the whole body met in conclave, these nineteen moderate members were forcibly prevented from entering, and thus the resolution, practically amounting to a declaration of *guerre à outrance*, was unanimously adopted. As regards pecuniary matters, the grévistes expect to be able to hold out for the present on the very meagre allowance of 50 c. a day per man. But they depend entirely on outside help—on the subscriptions of friends and of sympathetic newspapers, and on the collections made at meetings held for their benefit. Every gréviste who comes to the morning réunion receives a card, on presenting which in the evening he obtains his small daily pittance. But such a condition of quarter-rations cannot possibly be indefinitely prolonged, and is only possible at all in this sultry summer weather.

THE TRADES UNIONS OF PARIS.

Before entering into the origin of the present strikes in France it is necessary to give a few facts regarding the Bourse du Travail. Roughly speaking, the Bourse may be described as a federation of trade unions—with this important difference, that whereas the Bourse du Travail exists ostensibly solely for trade purposes, it is largely used as a means of political propaganda. The "Chambres Syndicales," the federation of which constitutes the Bourse du Travail, answer to our trade unions; but there exists further a certain number of "Groupes Corporatives," of a very similar nature, which are distinct from the Chambres Syndicales, and yet overlap into them. Each Chambre Syndicale and Groupe Corporative represents a separate trade, and all exist for the benefit of the working man. The first of these bodies were founded in 1867, but the greater number of them have existed only since 1870, and there are now about 200 in existence. A year ago, owing to the rapid development of the movement, it was felt to be essential to have a central connecting body, and the present Bourse du Travail was founded. Each Chambre and Groupe Corporative is represented on the general committee of the Bourse by one delegate, elected for a year; of these 200 delegates, 21 members are chosen by vote to form the executive council, and this executive council is officially recognised by the Conseil Municipal of Paris as representing the interests of the working men in all disputes.

Affiliation to the central body is entirely optional for every Chambre Syndicale. There is far greater laxity in these bodies as to rules and regulations than in English trade unions, and great variety exists between the different chambers. As a rule, any workman who is incapacitated from work through any accident or illness resulting from his occupation receives an allowance of 2 f. per day from his chamber. There is no fixed membership subscription, though the vast majority of the men pay 1 f. a month to their chamber from a sense of duty. The Citoyen Boulé assured me that it was impossible to tie down the French ouvrier by fixed rules; if he were obliged to subscribe he would not join at all, and the only method is to appeal to his sense of honour. In times of great distress the mem-

bers are excused all payment; hence it is evident that the chambers cannot have at their disposal any reserve of funds for great emergencies. In the present strike the Chambre Syndicale of the navvies has been helpless as far as pecuniary aid is concerned.

Unfortunately for the development of the Bourse du Travail as a central working body, it is torn in two by political strife and enmity. Broadly speaking, there are two parties on all the Chambres Syndicales, known as the "Possibilistes" and the "Indépendants." The "parti possibiliste" makes use of the whole organization for political purposes, subjects its members to a strict discipline, is distinctly unrevolutionary in its aims, allies itself with the Conseil Municipal, and hopes to arrive at political power by peaceful methods and careful organization. The Indépendants, on the other hand, object to the Bourse du Travail having other than commercial aims, and allow complete liberty as to the actions and opinions of its members. Until recently the "Possibilistes" have been in a majority on the central committee, as many of the chambers containing an "Indépendant" majority refused to be affiliated at all, owing to certain regulations passed by the "Possibilistes." A month ago, however, when the present strikes were looming on the horizon, the Indépendants realized the absolute necessity for central representation, and now nearly all are affiliated; and as a result the two parties are fairly well balanced on the central committee.

THE BOURSE DU TRAVAIL.

The home of the Bourse du Travail is a dismal, barrack-like building in the Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, immediately opposite to the old Halles des Blés, now being transformed into sumptuous new quarters for the capitalist body, the "Conseil du Commerce." At the Bourse there are endless small offices and a large meeting-hall. Never in any way had any Government interfered with the proceedings at the Bourse du Travail: but a week ago, owing to the large meetings of "terrassiers" held there and using as a pretext the street rows caused for the most part by the garçons de café on strike, they peremptorily closed the whole building. Forty-eight hours later, owing to the representations of the Possibiliste faction to their friends on the Conseil Municipal, the offices were reopened, but the hall still remains closed. Thus the grévistes are driven to the necessity of meeting in any hole-and-corner they can get hold of. The "place" in front of the Bourse presents much the same appearance as Trafalgar-square—rows of sergents-de-ville stand round, with no one to look at them but the street gamins.

THE CAUSE OF THE STRIKE.

The original cause of the present strikes must be traced to our old friend the middle-man. The contractors sub-let the work to overseers at a price settled according to the regulation rate of wages fixed by the trade corporations. The overseers pay from one-third to one-sixth less than the fixed rate of wages, and pocket the difference. This is done not only in private works, but in all the State undertakings as well, most of which are farmed out to contractors. There are further grievances as to the length of the hours of labour and as to general irregularity in the conditions. Thus many "terrassiers" are expected to work sixteen hours a day at 40 cents an hour; others are required to do carpenter's work in building up shafts, which require some skill, at the same rate of pay as ordinary digging. The "terrassiers" demands are simple and moderate—a working day of ten hours at 60 cents, the hour = 6 fr. per day. The first two hours beyond the ten are to be paid half as much again, and any hours above twelve are to be paid at a double rate. It is owing to the bad state of trade in recent years that the overseers have been able to grind down the wages of the labourers with such ruthless severity; and every month the state of affairs grow worse.

HOW THE STRIKE BEGAN.

The first body to take action in the matter were the "tailleurs de pierre" employed in building a new lobby to the Palais Bourbon for the use of deputies, a month or two back. As skilled labourers they should have been paid twelve francs a day; the overseers only paid them eight francs. Citoyen Boulé, in his combined capacity of stonemason and member of the Conseil des Prudhommes—that excellent institution founded by Napoleon I. for the settlement of trade disputes, and composed of an equal number of delegates elected by employers and labourers—brought the matter before the Conseil Prudhomme des Industries Diverses. Many deputies took part in the dispute, and although it was beyond the functions of the Conseil to render much assistance, it brought the whole question vividly before the public, and set all the Chambres Syndicales to discussing the injustice under which their members suffered. The "terrassiers," waking up to the possibilities of united resistance, called a great meeting one Saturday, and by the following Wednesday, July 26, 3,000 went on strike. The number rapidly rose to 6,000, and for the present remains at that figure; the movement has spread all round Paris to St. Denis, Créteil, Aubervilliers, &c. As an outside proof of the legality and moderation of the demands brought forward by the "terrassiers grévistes" it should be borne in mind that the sub-committee of the Conseil Municipal, known as the Commission de Travail, which is entrusted on behalf of the Conseil with the investigation of all trade questions, is openly friendly to the men on strike. When the Bourse du Travail requested the advance of a sum of 20,000 f. on behalf of the strike, the commission advised the Conseil Municipal to grant 10,000 f.; the capitalist majority on the Conseil rejected the proposal. It was, again, the Commission de Travail which offered its services as arbitrators between the men on strike

and their employers; it is this offer which the entrepreneurs have scornfully rejected, thereby destroying the only possible path toward a friendly settlement of the dispute. Even should the present strike fail in its immediate objects, it will have done incalculable good in binding the workmen together, and teaching the necessity for common action. But there are far more signs of the movement spreading than of its decline. Every *Chambre Syndicale* in Paris is at the present moment considering the advisability of a strike; and it is more than probable that within the present week not only the carpenters and the locksmiths, but also the tailors, may strike for less work and more pay. Should they decide to do so, their action will be motivated not only by a desire for their own personal advantage, but also by a growing sense of the necessity for a common action between all sections of the working-classes.

ANTI-RADICAL JOURNALISM.

IN connection with the lively letter from Mr. Greenwood published on Saturday, in which he announced the abrupt termination of his editorship of the *St. James's Gazette*, "under stress of the strongest compulsion," it is interesting to recall the buoyant hopes with which eight years ago that interesting newspaper was ushered into the world. It will be remembered by some of our readers that in the summer of 1880 Mr. Greenwood, having seceded from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of which he had been editor, and having been succeeded in that post by Mr. John Morley, founded with great promptitude a rival organ resembling in every outward particular the newspaper which he had abandoned, but devoted to the furtherance and propagation of anti-Radical opinions. The issue of the first number of the *St. James's Gazette* was preluded by an introduction very appropriately styled "The Blowing of the Trumpet," of which we give a specimen below. By the light of subsequent events the self-complacency and confidence of the anti-Radical of 1880 look decidedly foolish in 1888. In the interval Mr. Henry Hicks Gibbs, who principally found the money for the venture, is said on credible authority to estimate his losses at about £90,000, and he has not been created even a baronet for his pains. Others—we sincerely hope not Mr. Greenwood himself—have also lost largely by the unhappy venture; and now we have the founder of the *St. James's Gazette* shaking the dust from off his feet as he abandons for the second time a newspaper which he boasts of having created. In taking leave of him in this connection, we cordially congratulate him on the determination and pluck with which he has fought his long up-hill battle in a cause fore-doomed to failure. The passages quoted below, taken in conjunction with recent events, will be a useful warning to would-be anti-Radical journalists.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE. THE BLOWING OF THE TRUMPET.

"June, 1880:

"According to promise made one short month ago, we, who were then a discomfited little company of writers, with reek intolerable smoked out of our ancient quarters, gather together again; and do so in order to fall to work in the old spirit and in very much the old accustomed ways. But as to the ways, this is to be said: thanks to the raisers of the reek, we have had the benefit of twenty-eight days' contemplation. . . . Moreover, all sorts of new ideas have taken shape during this same blessed period of contemplation, and in due course they will be used to make of the *St. James's Gazette* something better, brighter, stronger of its kind than has yet been known.

"So at any rate we hope; and whereas for the fulfilment of hopes like ours nothing does so much as cheery endeavour we have every conceivable incitement. It would be against all nature, indeed, if we of this little paper did not march up to our desks to-day abounding in courage, resolution, and gaiety. The world is with us, smiling and helpful on all hands. Look where we may, there is a friend: nowhere, at any rate that we can descry, an enemy of the mere unwholesome kind. The Gentle Reader, our gentle reader, is almost rough in the eagerness of his kindness and the heartiness of his encouragement. He will have his old paper back again immediately, &c., &c.

"So, likewise, there is the language and the figures of another of our employers—the Newsvendor. Now, what this most significant man speaks to us under his breath is all of success.

"His books bear him out in this view; his figures, large and pleasant to the eye, confirm him, while when he discourses of the other concern in Northumberland-street he croaks over it in a voice sweeter than that of any nightingale. But yet peace to that other concern. After all, it is very far from being any concern of ours. It is a spark fallen from another system; and as from a distance we watch it circling and singing in harmony with the little Echo and such-like orbs, a tear may fall, a sigh may be breathed, but not another word."

It is a subject now of some speculation into what system Mr. Frederick Greenwood will himself fall on being set free from the *St. James's Gazette* "under stress of the strongest compulsion." It is to be hoped that he will not have to descend, like a late Unionist editor of the *Daily News*, to writing leaders for a society paper. But strange things happen.

MR. STEVENSON'S "BLACK ARROW."*

"SIR, this knave arrow likes me not," says Sir Oliver Oates in Mr. Stevenson's resurrected story, and we fear his readers of the maturer sort will be apt to echo the phrase. The judgment of his boy admirers we cannot forecast; but those who have followed with understanding the adventures of Jim Hawkins and David Balfour will scarcely place Dick Shelton on an equal footing in their affections. Mr. Stevenson tells us that the readers of the story-paper for which it was written considered "The Outlaws of Tunstall Forest" (as it was then called) "a clear advance" on "Treasure Island." Well, it is something to be able to write down to your audience. It shows a species of literary suppleness in which some authors are deficient. Yet one cannot but regret that Mr. Stevenson should have thought it worth while to break a lance (note the mediæval metaphor) with the G. P. R. Jameses of Red Lion-court. Life is too short for such aimless emprises. Mr. Stevenson has assured us that among the penny-weekly publishers he has acquired the reputation of "a reliable author." Such good report is not to be despised, but it may be dearly bought if the public which is more peculiarly his own should come to think of Mr. Stevenson as unreliable. He has hitherto succeeded in breathing fresh life into every literary form he has touched—the pirate story, the shilling shocker, and so forth. There seems to be no reason why even the mediæval romance should not have become a new thing in his hands. Without offending his penny patrons, he might surely have tuned his imagination to an epic strain. Far from making any such attempt, however, he seems merely to have "whistled as he went for want of thought;" and it is this incuria (as Mr. Saintsbury would say) that we hold unworthy of him.

Let it not be understood that the peculiar qualities of Mr. Stevenson's talent are absent from "The Black Arrow." The story is spirited, vivid, and, in spite of its triviality, by no means unreadable. Here and there we come across a touch in Mr. Stevenson's best manner. The hooded leper with his bell haunts the memory almost as weirdly as blind Pew with his tapping staff in "Treasure Island." Lawless, the Friar Tuck of the outlaws, is a character in his way; infinitely inferior to Long John Silver, indeed, yet something more than a marionette. Moreover, there are little bits of fresh and crisp description every here and there. In the opening chapters we breathe the very air of the woodland glades through which Dick and "Matcham" pursue their adventurous way, and the snow scenes of the wintry close are no less happily touched. In short, we never forget for many minutes together that it is Mr. Stevenson we are listening to. On every page there is something to remind us that this is not the ordinary "reliable author" of the penny-fiction factory. Yet the imitation is perilously perfect. Except in a few isolated cases, Mr. Stevenson has given his invention a holiday. The startling vicissitudes endured by his hero are managed in the most patently mechanical fashion. As in the terrific sword-bouts of the stage the combatants go through a prearranged figure, each in turn gaining the upper hand with rhythmic punctuality, so in "The Black Arrow" the hero's ups and downs recur at intervals of five pages or so until the oscillation between triumph and despair becomes positively ludicrous. When the worst comes to the worst there is always an invisible archer somewhere around to send a black arrow through the heart of the foeman. It is true that the hair's-breadth 'scape forms the very essence of all stories of adventure, and the god from the machine is the presiding genius of the to-be-continued-in-our-next-school-of-fiction. But there are machines and machines, and those which Mr. Stevenson uses in "The Black Arrow" are somewhat rusty. The lack of ingenuity in detail is not redeemed by any structural merit in the general design. The story is a mere string of incidents which might stop at any moment or go on to all eternity. There is an annoying break in the middle of it, at the end of the second book. It cannot even be said that each individual episode is very carefully thought out. The adventure of the "Good Hope," for instance, is told with great spirit but with curiously imperfect vision. We do not believe in it for a moment. The voyagers set off, apparently, without the smallest thought as to how they are to get ashore, when lo! in the nick of time, a "stone pier," of which we have hitherto heard nothing, looms up through the darkness in the most conveniently impossible spot. On such promiscuous piers as this our faith in the story-teller is apt to go to wreck. It should be noted, too, that in the matter of bloodshed, Mr. Stevenson enters into animated competition with Mr. Rider Haggard. From the first chapter to the last we wade in gore; and carnage is somehow less shocking in Impossible Africa than in Improbable England. Mr. Stevenson has recently declared that he prefers open warfare to pestilence and profit-grinding as a means of keeping down the population. "Periods of bloodshed and periods of tedium appear to follow each other," he is represented to have said. "Some people have a natural taste for the tedium, which I seem to lack." But bloodshed and tedium are not mutually exclusive.

A writer cannot complain of being judged by the standards he has himself established, and Mr. Stevenson would probably be the last to deny that in "The Black Arrow" he has fallen, or at least descended, below his proper level. He may allege, what is no doubt true, that he deliberately turned aside from his course to execute a *tour de force*. But what is the use of a *tour de force* which means, and must necessarily mean, a *tour de faiblesse*?

* "The Black Arrow: a Tale of the Two Roses." By Robert Louis Stevenson. (London: Cassell and Co. 1888.)

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We hear a curious story from abroad which if true sheds some light upon a somewhat obscure question. Every one has heard of the dispute between the Empress Victoria and the German Government concerning the custody of certain papers left by the late Emperor, which the Empress regarded as her own property, but which were claimed by her son. That dispute, it is stated, has now terminated. The Empress has given way. The cause of this change of view is said to be an intimation from Prince Bismarck that the will of the late Emperor would not be opened until the documents were returned. As the Empress depends upon the contents of that will for her maintenance in the future, she had to give in. We tell the story as it was told to us, without guaranteeing its accuracy. But as it seems to be current abroad, it is worth mentioning at home.

The comments of the *Kreuz Zeitung* upon Lord Salisbury's speech are characterized by the usual delusion under which the German press so often labours—namely, that England's position in India in some mysterious way depends upon the support of Germany. Says our Evangelical Conservative contemporary:—

We have frequently pointed out that very probably it will be England who will tempt Russia to make her first military move, and in connection, moreover, with wealthy India. Should this happen, the European peace alliance will regard such action on the part of Russia with indifference. Great Britain will have no cause to complain in such a case; for she will have already felt that no sympathy can be expected from a quarter where sympathy has been rendered impossible by irresponsible indolence or unfortunate over-presumption.

Now, to this and similar nonsense we have only to reply for the hundredth time that England's position in India is practically impregnable against a Russian attack, that Russia knows this perfectly well, and that if by any chance she forgot it England would certainly make no complaint if the central European Powers minded their own business and left her to defend her own Empire by her own means. It would really seem as if these people at Berlin thought England was as dependent as Austria upon the patronage of Germany.

Mr. Parnell has taken the preliminary steps for bringing an action against the *Times* in Scotland. Mr. Parnell is a shrewd man, and if he has done this on his own account we suppose he has good reason for doing it. If, however, he has yielded to *force majeure* applied by eminent authorities on our side, we can only express once more our regret at tactics which, to say the least, seem unfortunate. Such action, if begun at all, should have been begun long ago. To begin it now is to nullify half the arguments used by the Liberals last Session, without, so far as we can see, doing the slightest good to any one.

Mr. Goschen blew the Government's trumpet very loudly at Stockton on Saturday; but he found it necessary to suppress a good deal of truth in order to suggest his false conclusions. "No great measure," he said of the Local Government Bill, "has ever been passed through Parliament with fewer changes." Perhaps; but then none has ever been passed with greater curtailments. "It has remained," he added, "for the Unionist alliance to pass in one session a great legislative piece of machinery of which it was said that it must at least take two sessions, and possibly even more, before the whole subject could be properly threshed out." Well, and will it not do so? Or are the licensing question, the district councils, and the duties of the county councils to be calmly ignored? Ministers are going to occupy themselves in the recess, according to Mr. Goschen, in "telling the country what they have done." If only in the interest of truth, the Opposition will have to follow close upon their heels, in order to tell the country what the Government has not done.

In what party category, by the way, does Mr. Goschen now include himself? There was a phrase in his Stockton speech which leaves the matter in considerable perplexity. "We point with pride," he said, "to our performances, which we owe in great part to the loyalty of our allies." To whom did Mr. Goschen refer as "our allies"? He can hardly have meant the Tories, for he was speaking as a Cabinet Minister; and he could not mean that the Cabinet—bar its one Unionist—did not count. But if he meant by "our allies" the Liberal Unionists, then he reckons himself among the Tories: and by what right does he pose at other times as a Liberal?

Mdme. Patti has just completed her South American tour, and on Saturday embarked for her homeward journey. Her success has been phenomenal. No record of any other singer approaches it. The city of Buenos Ayres was a perfect El Dorado for the troupe. Twenty-four performances produced 2,094,355*f.* for the treasury—that is, on an average, nearly £3,500 for each representation. Mdme. Patti's own share came to £1,600 a night. Her tour occupied four months, and the forty

representations brought her in fifteen hundred thousand francs. The expenses were enormous, but these were defrayed by the impresario, and her gain is net. She is due in England, or rather in Wales, about the 1st of September, and will rest for a little before she starts on a European tour early next year, reserving a second visit to Buenos Ayres for the early summer. In that city she is under contract to give thirty representations. The announcement was made public during her stay, and already all the seats have been booked. It is expected that on her return to Europe in September, 1889, Mdme. Patti will spend some time in Paris, and probably give a few concerts in the capital crowded with visitors to the Exhibition.

There was one very interesting passage in Lord Coleridge's judgment in the great *Mogul* steamship case. All trade, he said, is, and must be, in a sense selfish, since what one man gains another loses (a view of the matter, by the way, which political economists do not always enough consider); and, continued Lord Coleridge:—

In the hand-to-hand war of commerce, as in the conflicts of public life, whether at the bar, in Parliament, medicine, or engineering, men fight on without much thought of others, except a desire to excel and defeat them. Very lofty minds, like Sir Philip Sidney with his cup of water, will not stoop to take an advantage if they think another wants it more. Our age, in spite of high authority to the contrary, is not without its Philip Sidneys.

Lord Coleridge did not propose to apply Sidney's counsel of perfection to "business men;" but it is satisfactory that the Lord Chief Justice of England should have lost no time in repudiating the creed of universal selfishness recently proclaimed on "the high authority" of Mr. Justice Stephen.

"Admiral Baird's health is so bad," says the *Standard's* naval correspondent, "that he has telegraphed to the Admiralty for instructions." We hope this is not true; for it would be decidedly unfortunate to entrust the defence of England to an Admiral in bad health. But the correspondent does not make it clear whether the alleged bad health of the Admiral was antecedent or subsequent to the manœuvres. One could understand Admiral Baird feeling bad after the failure of his fleet to protect the country.

So it is the old and disused Devil's Bridge on the St. Gothard that has fallen in, and not the new one. The correction of the original news is a gain to science and a loss to art. It is so much the better for the credit of the Swiss engineers—and Italian workmen (for curiously enough most of the schemes of Swiss engineers are executed by the Piedmontese). But it is so much the worse from the point of view of the picturesque and of artistic and historical associations. The bridge which remains intact is comparatively uninteresting; the one which has at last fallen in is the one of Suwarroff's fighting and of Turner's drawing.

As whole showers of "shooting stars" are to be seen in the midnight sky during the present month, it may be as well to remind our readers of the deep significance of the meteors, as it is given in a little snatch of popular German poetry, which runs as follows:—

Thou knowst the good old legend,
That, when with mystic light
A flame shoots down from heaven
Towards our earth at night,
The wanderer, lone and silent,
But with the fair sight thrilled,
Shall breathe his greatest longing
And it shall be fulfilled.

This is only a bit of the superstition of the poor in spirit, but it is very pretty, and where is the harm of, once in a midsummer night, giving way to the attraction which is due to the magic fascination leading mankind to see for ever in natural phenomena the signs and symbols of an unknown, higher world?

As we remarked the other day, the strange outburst of speed this summer on the northern lines reminds one keenly of the tale of the Prodigal Son. All the rejoicings hitherto have been in honour of the North Western. True to its rude instinct of "star" worship, the British public now turns every eye with indiscriminating admiration on the line that starts from Euston. Meanwhile, not to speak of the Midland, the Great Northern, which for years kept alight for us the torch of high speed, may justly complain, as did the elder brother in the parable, that excitement should involve ingratitude. For years the Great Northern has served us, always excellently, and as a matter of course. Even now, without saying much about it, they are forging ahead again. The East Coast express has arrived so early every day this week that from Monday next it will be officially timed as reaching Edinburgh at 5.45, bringing the journey to 7¾ hours. In the meantime it should be remembered that the ten o'clock train which leaves King's-cross weighs nearly twice as much, and carries three times as many passengers, as the one from Euston. Also

the route from London to York is stiffer than that from London to Crewe. Yet the Great Northern take their heavier train to York at an average speed of fifty-five miles an hour, while the North Western's average to Crewe is fifty-three. The Great Northern time to York is exactly 3½ hours, including five minutes' stop at Grantham. It is, in fact, the Caledonian who are the making of the West Coast journey, and the comparison of most interest is between what they do and what the North-Eastern do over a much easier route. But, we repeat, no comparisons are honest which are silent as to the *weight* carried, because at such extreme speeds every extra ton is of consequence.

It is to be hoped that the Wimbledon Common Conservators will take a lesson from the death of the poor lad who was drowned yesterday morning in the Queen's Mere. The plan of employing the "out of work" two years ago in digging the pond was excellent; it was more excellent still to give the sheet of water to the public to use for bathing purposes, but to leave it without providing any life-saving apparatus is simply scandalous, seeing that in some places the pond is about 11 ft. deep. The consequence was that the boy who was seized with cramp yesterday, had no chance of being saved, and remained in the water over three hours, at the end of which a plucky youth, who had meanwhile constructed some primitive apparatus, brought the dead body up.

The improved weather of last week wrought a mighty change in cricket prospects. It so robbed Australian bowling of its terror that Gloucestershire, on Saturday, defeated the colonists by no fewer than 257 runs (though it is only fair to state that the latter were playing without Turner), and it enabled the Surrey batsmen to beat, for the second time this year, the highest innings total ever made in a first-class match in England. That highest before last week was Surrey's total of 650, made against Oxford last time; but this is left far behind by the 698 scored against Sussex, whose bowler, Tate, had only a week before attracted the attention of the whole cricket world by his destructiveness. Mud-larking has, in fact, given way to cricket at last; and with a week or two more sunshine we may confidently expect the revival of the old outcry for a narrowed bat.

The Royal Commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Selborne, which for more than two months has been pursuing its inquiries into the condition of higher education in London, will, it is understood, reassemble after the recess at the beginning of October. The drift of the inquiry so far has been, it is said, towards the establishment of a second university rather than the reform and expansion of that already existing. Whether such a conclusion, if finally approved by the Commission, will also be sanctioned by Parliament and the public, remains to be seen; but perhaps something of the kind was hinted at in the designation of the Commission as the "University for London Commission."

Meanwhile the university which at present bears the name of the metropolis continues increasing in numbers. The examinations intervening between matriculation and the degree examinations in Arts, Science, and Medicine have just been held. Taken altogether the number of candidates is much larger than last year, though this is not the case in Medicine, whether from the expectation that a new university will be created, or from whatever other cause. It is, however, in this department that a result in several ways very noteworthy has been attained. The London School of Medicine for Women sent up thirteen candidates, of whom twelve have passed, ten in all the subjects of the examination. Of these ten ladies seven go out in honours, one, Florence G. Longbottom gains the number of marks qualifying for the gold medal in anatomy; Alice McLaren passes in double honours, and Annette Matilda Benson in triple honours. This result is the more remarkable, since objections to the severity of the London examinations have come chiefly from the male medical students and their teachers. It will be for them now to explain this great success of the lady students. In view of this result it is perhaps singular that ladies have not attained equal success in Science; but here the total number of failures of both sexes has been large, owing perhaps to some increased severity in the examination.

"The little watering place of Gastein (writes a correspondent) is already unusually full, but one familiar face has been missed this August. For five-and-twenty years the Emperor William scarcely let a season pass without a visit. His face was well known at Gastein before his name had become famous in European politics or German history. The mayor of the little town has just received from the Dowager Empress a bouquet of rhododendrons gathered by her and the Archduchess Valeria at the mausoleum in Charlottenburg. Its timely despatch was one of those domestic amenities for which the German people are justly celebrated. It was perhaps to compensate in some way the townsfolk for the loss of their most constant and illustrious visitor that the Emperor Francis Joseph resolved to pass part of his holiday at the spring. The Empress Elizabeth is here also, and a report has just gone about that King Milan may be expected from Vienna in a few days. The weather has been latterly very fine and the season very gay."

SOME PHONOGRAPH POSSIBILITIES.

A VISION OF TALKING WAXWORKS.

It is safe to predict that before long the unbounded possibilities of Mr. Edison's invention applied to waxwork figures will force themselves on public attention, and especially on public men greatly pressed by engagements. The Prince of Wales, for instance, regards himself as at some seasons of the year the hardest-worked man in the kingdom, what with dock and park openings, hospital stone-layings, presiding at this or that annual meeting, and social functions of a hundred different kinds in a hundred different parts of the country. To his Royal Highness the ability to appear in half a dozen places at once must sometimes seem a great desideratum. Now here is the phonograph offering itself as a sweet boon. What easier than to get half a dozen wax figures cast from his own lineaments, and to fit up each with a phonograph, in which can be placed an appropriate speech! Suppose the Prince is required to open a dock at Cardiff, lay the foundation-stone of a hospital at Inverary, launch an Atlantic liner at Greenock, open an exhibition at Manchester, and attend the St. Leger at Doncaster, and suppose that, as usual, this dock, this hospital, this liner, this exhibition, and this race meeting all clamour for his attendance on one and the same day. Well, a suitable speech is prepared in each of the four first-named cases; a lay figure is provided for each with the proper phonogram, and despatched in good time in custody of an equerry to Cardiff, Inverary, Greenock, and Manchester respectively; and on the appointed day, while four several crowds are cheering to the echo the gracious sentences ground out by the clockwork machinery in the princely interiors, the real H.R.H. may be keeping the Doncaster engagement *in propria persona*!

Our American friends, since they cannot get Mr. Gladstone to cross the Atlantic in the flesh, are said to be thinking of importing his voice (presumably duty free) through the medium of Mr. Edison's marvellous invention. They mean to hear a speech on Home Rule from the Grand Old Orator by that means. How much more real would their impression be, however, if Mr. Edison enclosed his phonograph with this speech in a good wax figure, properly clothed, bearing in one hand an axe, and fitted with clockwork machinery to give oratorical emphasis with the other! Or again, imagine one of those great gatherings that from time to time take place when "overflow" meetings have to be held of those disappointed ones who, having attended the hall of assembly to hear the Big Gun himself, find themselves too late to get in, and consigned to the rhetoric of sundry small guns. In this case, with reasonable forethought, it might be arranged to have the same speech delivered at the same time in three or four different assemblies, with no doubt tremendous effect. In times of Bulgarian atrocity agitations, or at general elections, it would of course be arranged by the different political parties to trot their great men about the country in duplicate. Mr. Gladstone, in waxwork, with the phonograph, might peregrinate the country from Penzance to Perth, Margate to Midlothian, addressing ten different meetings on the same night, and rousing every one of them at the same moment to the highest pitch of political fervour; while Lord Salisbury, propped up against the chairman's tables in ten other meetings, might simultaneously be pouring out, or rather let us say, grinding out, his polished sarcasms, gibes, flouts, and sneers.

Another phase of public life in which the phonograph in conjunction with waxworks may be expected to play, sooner or later, a most important part, is that of philanthropy. Nowadays many men endeavour to live to posterity by good works. With some it is a laudable ambition to keep their names in existence by pegging them to some public building of which they are the founders. Jones will build and endow the Jones Hospital; Brown will leave to posterity the Brown School of Art; Smith will present to the nation the Smith Institution for Decayed Widows. And every year there must be a meeting held at each of these valuable institutions, at which those whom it may concern may hear or sing the praises of the deceased benefactor, and keep his memory green by discharging certain functions connected with his noble legacy. How much more interesting will those annual gatherings become when at each of them the founder himself is present in wax, to speak his annual speech in his own natural voice through the medium of the phonograph! It would be the easiest thing in the world for Brown when he provides for his hospital or school to provide also a wax figure of himself, clad in his accustomed dress clothes, with gold-rimmed spectacles on nose, and equipped with a phonogram of a suitable annual speech.

The chief objection to this sort of thing might be, perhaps, that in course of time the example of the respected founders of the institutions might be followed by some of those whom their posthumous eloquence was intended to reach. The Midases, the Croesuses, the Longpurses, and other big-wigs whose contributions to the funds of the institutions are in proportion to the height of their names in the list of those present at these annual meetings, might sooner or later come to regard it as sufficient to send their own lay-figures in charge of a footman, so that we might read in the newspapers: "Among those present were Sir Gorgius Midas, M.P. (in wax), Mr. Croesus, M.P., Mr. Longpurse (in wax), Mr. Smallpenny, &c." It might also come to pass that gentlemen who are accustomed on such occasions to move votes of thanks in stereotyped speeches might phonograph those speeches, and send them with their wax double to be ground out by the footman in attendance, on the signal being given by the hon. secretary of the institution or the chairman of the meeting.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S REPLY TO MR. PARNELL

The following letter appears in the *Times* to-day:—

Sir,—A great pressure of work has prevented me from replying earlier to Mr. Parnell's letter of the 4th of August.

After reading it carefully I find a difficulty in ascertaining what is now the issue between us, or on what point Mr. Parnell differs from any statement of mine with reference to the communications which took place between Mr. O'Shea and myself in 1884 and 1885. Previously to the appearance of his letter I had understood that he denied that Mr. O'Shea had any authority to represent his views, and that he repudiated all responsibility for the scheme for a National Council or Central Board submitted to me by that gentleman. Now, however, I gather that what Mr. Parnell intended to repudiate was all cognizance or approval of what he calls my plan. This "plan" was really a suggestion contained in a short paragraph of a letter addressed to an old personal acquaintance of mine, and originally intended to be confidential, although, with my permission, the whole letter was subsequently shown to a few gentlemen in Ireland.

The idea was never at any time worked out in detail, and it was not the subject of any discussion with Mr. O'Shea. I am consequently quite ready to admit Mr. Parnell's disclaimer of any assent to it.

The scheme which I have attributed to Mr. Parnell is now appended to this letter. It was the subject of conversation with Mr. O'Shea from the end of November, 1884, and was brought to me in writing by him on January 18, 1885. The letters from Mr. Parnell to which I have referred in confirmation of my statement show that Mr. O'Shea was the confidential exponent of Mr. Parnell's views at the time, and also prove Mr. Parnell's authorship of this scheme; but these points are not disputed in Mr. Parnell's letter to you. The correspondence at the same time corroborates Mr. Parnell's statement that he did not put forward this proposal as a substitute for an Irish Parliament. It is true that when it was first mentioned to me I understood that it was offered as a settlement of the Irish question which would be satisfactory to the Irish people; but I always felt that no statement to this effect, even if it were made by Mr. Parnell himself, could bind the Irish people in the future; though I believed then, as I do now, that the adoption of any large yet safe proposal for the extension of local government would remove all practical grievances and leave only a sentimental question which would not evoke serious agitation.

The whole subject was fully discussed with my colleagues from time to time, and it was not till May 9, 1885, that the scheme was finally rejected by the Government, which shortly afterwards resigned office after a defeat on the Budget. When the new Government was formed I endeavoured to learn whether Mr. Parnell still adhered to his proposal; and about the middle of July Mr. O'Shea informed me that in view of the altered state of affairs and having regard to a recent speech of Lord Carnarvon's, Mr. Parnell considered it doubtful whether it would be worth while to encumber the Irish question with any larger extension of local government to Ireland than to England. I do not think, therefore, that upon this point there is now any conflict of testimony between Mr. Parnell and myself.

As regards the question of the renewal of the Crimes Act, this matter was the subject of lengthened discussion simultaneously with that of the local government scheme. Some time in the spring of 1885 Mr. O'Shea brought me a copy of the Prevention of Crimes Act, 1882, on which the clauses to which Mr. Parnell objected had been struck out by his own hand. I find on inspection of this document that the following clauses remain as constituting the bill to which at that time Mr. Parnell had no serious objection. They are—

Clause 4 and 5; the first being altered by the transfer from Clause 1 of the definition of offences, excluding, however, treason and treason-felony. These are the special jury clauses.
Clause 6.—Change of venue.
Clause 15.—Alien clause.
Clauses 16 and 17.—Private inquiries.
Clauses 19 and 20.—Compensation for murder and injuries to be levied on the district.

Clause 24.—Omitting the first sub-section.
Clause 29.
Clause 30.—Omitting the first three sub-sections.
Clause 31.
Clause 35.—With consequential omissions.
Clause 36.
Clause 37.—With amendment limiting duration to one year.
Schedules 2 and 3.

In the course of subsequent conversations I stated to Mr. O'Shea that, in my opinion, no Government could dispense with some provision directed against boycotting and intimidation; and this point formed the subject of much discussion. I understood that if the Act were limited to one year Mr. Parnell would consent to more stringent provisions than he would be prepared to accept in the case of an Act for three years or a longer period, and accordingly I pressed this limitation strenuously on other members of the Government.

In conclusion, I may be allowed to say that neither at this time nor subsequently has it appeared to me that there was anything in these communications of which Mr. Parnell had cause to be ashamed. I believed then that he was sincerely anxious to see the end of the dangerous agitation which had for so long distracted Ireland. It was with this object that I understood him to propose a compromise between the views of the Separatist party and the existing system; and I readily accepted the statements made to me of his attitude as entirely consistent with what I know of it myself, and especially with his offer to Mr. Gladstone, made after the murders in the Phoenix Park, and since published, to retire from Parliament and give up politics altogether.

I have always entertained the conviction that one of the most serious difficulties in the government of Ireland has been the isolation of the "Castle," and the want of a confidential interchange of opinion between the leaders of the Irish party and the Government of the country; and I must express my great regret that this difficulty has been rather increased than diminished by the experience of myself and others who have in recent years endeavoured to overcome it.—I am, sir, yours obediently,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

40, Princes-gardens, Aug. 11.

The Republican Senators will press the Fisheries Treaty to a vote during the coming week. They have a majority, and are able to reject it, and also to prevent its postponement. The President, it is reported, contemplates the withdrawal of the treaty before a vote is taken.

At Home and Abroad.

The annual gathering of Artillery volunteers at Shoeburyness was inaugurated on Saturday, when about a thousand of all ranks marched into camp.

An Imperial decree has been issued announcing that the Empress Dowager of China will retire from her share of the Government in March, when the Emperor will assume sole responsibility.

The Duke of Aosta, the brother of King Humbert, after his marriage with the Princess Letitia Bonaparte, will pay a visit to the Empress Eugénie in England. It will take place at the beginning of October.

Her Majesty in Council has approved of the granting of a charter of incorporation to the town of Chelmsford. A large majority of the ratepayers had signed a memorial in favour of the change.

Mr. Donald Mackenzie has left London for Cape Juby, with a view to endeavour to adjust the North-west African Company's relations with the natives of that place. He is accompanied by Colonel Baron Lahure and M. Fourcault, officers in the Belgian army.

A fire took place yesterday in a hay and straw store situated in one of the arches beneath the Midland Railway at Wolverhampton. About forty tons of fodder were consumed, and fears were entertained for the safety of the railway; but after five hours unceasing effort the fire was subdued.

At Birmingham assizes on Saturday Mr. Justice Wills, before whom Mr. Lawrence, Q.C., had several times submitted arguments upon legal points touching the conviction of George Cattell Greenway, finally refused to grant a case for the Court of Appeal upon Crown Cases Reserved.

At the last meeting of the executive committee of the Gordon Boys' Home it was reported that the number of boys now in the Home had reached 150. The committee regretted that for want of funds they were unable at present to extend further the advantages of the institution.

The body of Larry Donovan, who met his death on Tuesday last by leaping from the foot-bridge running by the side of Charing-cross railway bridge, was on Saturday found opposite St. George's Stairs, Deptford. The initials "L.D." were tattooed on the right arm.

The new war cruiser *Medusa* was launched at Chatham Dockyard on Saturday afternoon. The *Medusa* is an exactly similar ship to the *Medea*, launched at Chatham a few weeks since, and both are to be employed as swift cruisers. For this purpose the *Medusa* will be fitted with machinery which enable her to steam at 20 knots an hour.

Some excitement was caused on Saturday evening by an accident which occurred on the Thames near Windsor Lock. A pleasure boat capsized in the navigation cut, and its occupants, three ladies and two gentlemen, were thrown into the stream. Being, however, near the bank of Romsey Island, they were speedily extricated, and attended to in the lock-keeper's house.

Harvest operations commenced in East Kent on Saturday with the cutting of wheat at Ash. The brilliant sunshine of the few previous days had brought the corn into a thoroughly ripe condition, and there is a very fair crop of excellent quality. New grey peas were offering at Canterbury market on Saturday, and realised 32s. per quarter.

Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., was present at a rounders match at Liverpool on Saturday, and said the Rounders Associations should be affiliated with the National Physical Recreation Society, as the game was essentially a working man's game. It was outdoor sports that made the nation what it was, and in these days of education, perhaps, they attended too much to the mind, to the neglect of the body.

A large number of leading Hindoos and Mahomedans of Upper India and Bombay have formed a body called "The Indian Patriotic Association." The prospectus states that the object of the Association is to counteract the agitation of the organizations in India and of the National Congress, and to oppose the attempts to introduce doctrines subversive of the Conservative instincts of the Indian races.

The Rev. J. Julian, vicar of Wincobank, Sheffield, has offered to the council of the Church House the whole of the large and valuable collection of books and MSS. which he has accumulated in the preparation of the dictionary of hymnology about to be published. The offer has been accepted by the council. The collection will form the nucleus of a department for hymnology in connection with the library of the Church House.

Yesterday morning the religious service held at Wilcocks's Assembly Rooms, Lambeth-road, was attended by a sad incident. Mr. Ernest Leonard Rowland, of 45, Bellenden-road, Rye-lane, Peckham, delivered an address to the congregation at noon. Soon after resuming his seat he fell forward in a fainting condition. Restoratives were at once applied, but he died almost immediately.

A married woman named Jane Medlen was charged at the Thames police-court on Saturday with loitering in Wellesley-street dressed in male attire; but after hearing the evidence, which showed that the accused had adopted this unsuitable attire so as to watch the movements of her husband, of whom she was apparently jealous, the magistrate, with a timely caution, ordered her to be discharged.

A month ago George Frederick Curzon, twelve years of age, was attacked by a large black dog in the neighbourhood where he lived, Smithdown-road, Liverpool. The principal wound was in the boy's lip. It was dressed, the wound healed up, and the boy appeared to be perfectly well until a few days ago, when symptoms of hydrophobia supervened, and he died in great agony on Saturday.

James Webber, Downton, was charged at Plymouth police-court on Saturday with being concerned as a principal in a robbery at the Cornwall Railway Company's office on the night of Monday last, when the premises were broken into, the safe opened with a duplicate key, and over £500 in notes, gold, and silver stolen. The prisoner, who declared his innocence, was remanded for a week.

On Saturday a report was made to the War Office upon the important experiments recently made with the Maxim gun, at 600 and 800 yards, in comparison with fire from Martini-Henry rifles. At 600 yards, 15 men, all first or second class shots, fired 10 volleys, and made 52 per cent. of hits in 3 min. 36 sec.; while the Maxim, firing the same number of rounds at the same targets, made 81.56 per cent. of hits in 2 min. 36 sec. At 800 yards the results were—Fifteen Martini-Henrys, 40.66 per cent. of hits in 3 min. 40 sec.; Maxim, 80 per cent. in 1 min 30 sec.

HOT WEATHER.—HOW TO INVIGORATE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM BY NATURAL MEANS.—MENTAL PROSTRATION.—"Having suffered much from headache and Mental Prostration, I was induced to try ENO'S FRUIT SALT, the effects of which have been most satisfactory, resulting in invigorating my entire nervous system, and removing the frequent headache to which I was subject. You are at liberty to make any use you think proper of this testimonial, as I consider ENO'S FRUIT SALT an indispensable adjunct to the household.—TRUTH, Sigdon-road, Dalston, E." Caution.—Examine each bottle, and see the Cap, which is marked "ENO'S FRUIT SALT." Without it you have been imposed on by worthless imitations.

ATTEMPT TO SHOOT GENERAL BOULANGER.

FIVE SHOTS FIRED WITHOUT EFFECT.

Writing last night the Paris correspondent of the *Standard* says:—An attempt seems to have been made this afternoon on the life of General Boulanger as he was driving in St. Jean d'Angely in an open carriage. The General had been warned that the Opportunists had collected in that town as many as possible of their partisans from every corner of the Department, with the object of making a great counter demonstration against him. His carriage was to be overturned by a number of the most desperate of them. The Opportunists were, it was affirmed, determined that General Boulanger should have a hostile reception at St. Jean d'Angely, because M. Lair, their candidate, is mayor of that town. General Boulanger laughed at the warning. Nevertheless, his friends took some precautions for his safety. But later on they began to imagine that the information they had received was incorrect, for though there was a great deal of hissing and shouts of "*à bas Boulanger!*" no attempt was made to molest the General by any act of violence till he reached the square in front of the church. At this point five shots were fired at him. The criminal attempt was made by M. Perrin, a Professor at the Lycée, who is said to be one of M. Lair's personal friends. It so happened that M. Ratapan, a staunch partisan of General Boulanger, was close to M. Perrin when he drew his revolver. M. Ratapan rushed on M. Perrin, and though he was unable to prevent the discharge of the weapon he nevertheless turned it aside, being wounded himself by a bullet in the back of the head. The wound does not appear to be dangerous, but two peasants were also hit by bullets, and one of the horses drawing General Boulanger's carriage was wounded in the shoulder. The General escaped unhurt.

Later information says that St. Jean d'Angely was yesterday afternoon the scene of a pitched battle between the Opportunists and the Boulangists. General Boulanger arrived in the town at about three o'clock, and met with a most hostile demonstration. The Boulangists were in a decided minority, but nevertheless they were extremely noisy. In the mêlée Comte Dillon received a blow on the head with a stick. Many other Boulangists were roughly handled by the Opportunists, who seem to have been infuriated by the intrigues of the General's partisans. It was when the rioting was at its height, and when the gendarmes were charging the crowd, that M. Perrin drew his revolver and fired. It does not appear to be established that he intended to aim at the General, but, in any case, five shots were fired, and the horse drawing the carriage containing the General was hit, and two peasants and M. Ratapan wounded.

FUNERAL OF GENERAL SHERIDAN.

General Sheridan's remains were interred on Saturday in the Arlington National Cemetery, in accordance with the wishes of the deceased's wife. President Cleveland, the Cabinet Ministers, the Diplomatic Body, the civil, military, and naval authorities, and many other prominent persons were present at the ceremony. A military escort, in accordance with the regulations for an officer of the deceased's rank, accompanied the procession from St. Matthew's Church to the cemetery. Cardinal Gibbons delivered the funeral oration.

MORE ABOUT THE BULGARIAN BRIGANDS.

Frau Laendler, the wife of one of the men captured by the brigands and released on Thursday, gives particulars, writes a Vienna correspondent, of the treatment they received. Herr Laendler says that the fellows are not political refugees, but brigands of the roughest kind. The ransom was paid at midnight on Wednesday, and Captain Cugia, the Italian Attaché, escorted the released men back. Herr Laendler says that the brigands are the same who pursued him a year ago, and that they have lived quite undisturbed under the very noses of the Bulgarian authorities. They are well disciplined, and each man carries a Martini rifle and 150 cartridges. The prisoners were always bound, and have deep marks on their ankles and wrists. The brigands now demand a ransom of £T5,000 for the photographer whom they captured near the convent where Prince Ferdinand lately spent a fortnight.

THE GREAT LOG RAFT'S VOYAGE A SUCCESS.

The New York correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—The great log raft from Joggins, Nova Scotia, went through Hell Gate at high tide about noon on Saturday, and passed down the East River to its destination in tow of seven tugs. From the banks the raft looked like a gigantic whale or big ship bottom upwards. There was apparently a great deal more of it below the surface than above, and from its shiplike shape and the submergence apparently of the ends it did not look nearly as long as it was reported to be. It was really 592 feet long, 55 wide, and drew 23 feet of water. It was built of 24,000 logs, averaging 13 inches in diameter and 39 feet in length, and containing 5,000,000 feet of timber. The raft is cigar-shaped. The logs are bound together by wire ropes and chains. Two big tugs towed it down from the Bay of Fundy, where it has been under construction since November, when Mr. Leary's other and unfortunate venture was launched. To transport such a mass of timber by the usual method would require forty-five lumber schooners and cost 30,000 dols. The two tugs for towing it only charged 4,500 dols. It is estimated that the owners will realize 75,000 to 100,000 dols. from their venture.

A CYCLIST FESTIVAL IN VIENNA.

The German and Austrian bicycle festival was opened at Vienna yesterday at nine o'clock. The Englishmen were especially applauded. There was a "Cyclist Corso" on the Ringstrasse, witnessed by many thousands of people. The procession, which did not go much quicker than a walking pace, including bicycles and tricycles of some two hundred different systems. The monotony of the brown, grey, and drab suits worn by the men was relieved here and there by cyclists of the fair sex, attired for the most part in gay colours. There were deputations from most of the large towns in Germany, and from all the Austrian provinces, with badges and medals innumerable, preceded by the flags and banners of their respective clubs. The chief interest of the "Corso" was, however, in the various systems of vehicles; and in that respect it was certainly remarkable. The races commenced in the afternoon at three o'clock, when the thermometer was over ninety. Herr August Lehr, of Frankfort, covered the distance of 6¼ miles in less than nineteen minutes, thereby becoming champion of Germany and Austria.

The popularity of FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA is rapidly increasing, and where once tried its delicious flavour and agreeable qualities secure for it a permanent place in the household dietary. Highly recommended, by many eminent physicians, for young children and delicate persons to whom tea is injurious. Ask your Grocer for a sample and book of Testimonials.

A STEAMER SUNK IN THE CHANNEL.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE CREW.

Another disaster through the fog occurred thirty-five miles south-west of the Start early yesterday morning. The barque *Happy Town*, of Liverpool, from London to Australia, with cement, was beating down Channel when the captain found himself about a quarter of a mile from a large steamer which was trying to make the Start, the fog having prevented her from being seen before. The captain of the barque shifted his vessel, in hope of bringing her to the wind, but the result was she went crashing into the steamer, which proved to be the *Bosphorus*, of Newcastle, Captain Smith, from Alexandria, with grain. The steamer was struck on the fore part of her poop, and began instantly to settle down. The crew of the barque, however, thinking their vessel was also sinking, clambered on board the steamer, but when the true state of affairs was ascertained the steamer's four boats were launched, and her crew of twenty-seven men, with one lady passenger, got aboard the barque. The latter had an immense breach in her bows, but the bulkhead was shored up, and she safely reached Plymouth during the afternoon. The crew of the steamer lost everything, and the lady all her property, including £200.

THE MASSOWAH MATTER.—THE KHEDIVE PROTESTS.

The Khedive has informed the Porte that in answer to the two Notes of Italy he has protested against the annexation of Massowah and the Protectorate over Zula. He declares that he has maintained that they are under the absolute suzerainty of the Sultan. Photiades Pasha at Rome was recalled as a protest against the action of Italy, though the *Daily News* correspondent at Constantinople is informed that he has been telegraphed to remain until further orders. The French Ambassador has assured the Porte that no design against Tripoli exists on the part of his Government, and that it would be willing to send a fleet there to protect the rights of the Sultan.

THE HERIOT MYSTERY IN PARIS.

A rumour was afloat in Paris on Saturday that M. Hériot, the proprietor of the Louvre, had been kidnapped and hurried off to England. It will be remembered that M. Hériot recently attempted to shoot his wife and then tried to commit suicide. He was then declared to be out of his mind, and was kept closely confined at his château of La Boissière, an out-of-the-way country house, near Rambouillet. The members of the Hériot family objected to this arrangement, and have several times attempted to gain access to M. Hériot. Yesterday a clever plot was arranged to secure the patient and take him to Mantes. Thence he would have been taken by carriage to Paris, and conveyed in a special railway compartment to Boulogne and across the Channel. The conspiracy failed because of a reception of the employés of the Louvre, which takes place annually on some Saturday in August. A Paris correspondent states that the wildest scandals are being sold about the streets, in which the names of General Boulanger, Mme. Hériot, and other personages less known, are freely mentioned, and it is hoped that the authorities will take some steps to make sure that M. Hériot is really mad, and so satisfy the public mind on the subject. A meeting of the Hériot family is to be held on Saturday next, at which the question of the patient's removal to a lunatic asylum will be discussed.

A SCHEME OF MIGRATION TO BURMAH.

Mr. Philip Nolan, general secretary of the Government of Bengal, arrived at Rangoon on Saturday on a special mission to arrange for an extensive scheme of migration to Burmah from certain districts in Bengal adjoining Assam. The sparse population of Burmah has been greatly thinned by long-continued disturbances. The loss of life during the past three years has been very large, and a large number of prisoners have been transported to India. The Government of Burmah have vast tracts of land available for new settlers, and a great many of the military police have expressed their willingness to settle in Burmah if grants of land are made them.

THE THREATENING ATTITUDE OF THE TIBETANS.

The Tibetans, emboldened by the purely defensive attitude maintained by the British troops behind entrenched and fortified positions, are rapidly massing and pushing forward their preparations for an early attack. It is stated that 11,000 Tibetans are now encamped behind the Jalapla Pass and 1,500 between the frontier and Lhasa. Two hundred Khamtya soldiers have arrived at Phari, under the leadership of two "chidungs," or holy lamas. They have erected a fortified wall at the foot of the Natula Pass, on the Sikkim side, and have occupied the pass with a strong outpost, stationed at Yakla.

The latest telegraphic despatch from Gnatong (according to the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*) states that information has been received that a representative of the Chinese Ampa, or Legate, has visited the Tibetan outposts in Sikkim, and has started on his return journey. The present Ampa is said to be of higher rank than any previously sent from China. The former Ampa was recalled in consequence of his omission to report the true character of the dispute between the Indian Government and Tibet.

It is rumoured that the Tibetans are intriguing with our protected Himalayan States, and that they profess to be prepared for twelve years of war. The First Goorkhas have started from Pathankote, and are expected to arrive in Gnatong about the 23rd inst. A battery from Darjeeling will arrive to-morrow.

THE STRIKES IN PARIS NOT YET SETTLED.

The contractors for public works and other employers of navvies assembled on Saturday at their Syndical Chamber to deliberate on the proposal received from the men, to make the Labour Committee of the Municipal Council arbitrator in the differences between them. The discussion was long and very stormy, but in the end the majority pronounced against that arbitration. On the other hand, the journeyman carpenters, who held a meeting yesterday, resolved to go out, and, on the proposal of the Socialist Fortellier, agreed to join the navvies at the meeting they are to hold to-day.

THE BISHOP AND THE CATHOLICS.

The Bishop of Salisbury, preaching in the cathedral yesterday morning, said he was very sorry the Lambeth Conference did not approach the Roman Catholic Christians in this country with a greater amount of hopefulness than it did. They could not expect the Roman Catholics to receive them as a body, but he thought that by showing their own Catholic position, by affirming their own right to the full heritage of the Church, by openness and frankness and perfect truthfulness and confidence, and by expecting such openness and frankness from them in return—from individuals he meant, and not the whole body—they could make a great impression upon individuals.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE FORGED LETTERS OF THE "TIMES."

MR. PARNELL TAKES ACTION IN THE SCOTCH COURTS.

On Saturday arrestments were lodged in the hands of Messrs. Robertson and Scott, Messrs. Keith and Co., and Messrs. Menzies and Co., newspaper agents, Edinburgh, at the instance of Mr. Parnell, against the proprietor and the printer and publisher of the *Times*. The arrestments are for sums of £20, more or less. The name of Mr. R. Ainslie Brown, S.S.C., 10A, George-street, Edinburgh, appears on the letters of arrestment as that of the agent. The step that has been taken foreshadows the raising of an action in Edinburgh by Mr. Parnell against the *Times*.

The above kind of arrestment is used for the purpose of bringing a foreigner under the jurisdiction of the courts of Scotland. A person domiciled abroad, whether native or foreigner, is not amenable to the Scotch courts, or liable to legal diligence, real or personal, unless he either has property in Scotland or comes personally into the country. Where his property is hereditary he is held to have a forum and may be cited as of the kingdom; but where his property is merely moveable an arrestment to found jurisdiction is necessary. This arrestment is laid on either in virtue of the warrant of an inferior court or of letters of arrestment *jurisdictionis fundanda causa* passing the signet on a warrant obtained in the Bill Chamber, and even when laid on by the warrant of an inferior court, such an arrestment will found a jurisdiction in the supreme court.

The expected action is exciting the greatest amount of interest among politicians of all shades of opinion in Edinburgh.

WHAT DR. HUNTER SAYS.

Dr. Hunter's paper, the *Weekly Dispatch*, announced yesterday:—"We are in a position to state that Mr. Parnell has adopted a course that checkmates the infamous Star Chamber Bill. Yesterday a summons was served in Scotland on the representatives of the *Times* for libel, upon the forged letters. This step has been taken upon a peculiar doctrine of Scotch law, which gives jurisdiction without proof of publication. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Asher, the Scotch law officers to the late Liberal Government, are retained for Mr. Parnell, and Mr. Strachan is the junior counsel. This step, the probability of which we lately anticipated, will utterly frustrate the fraudulent designs of the Government. As a majority of nine to three gives a verdict, there is no risk of the Scotch trial proving abortive."

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* has heard "that Mr. Parnell will make his action a ground for declining to appear before the Commission or to answer any questions."

THE ANSWER OF THE "TIMES."

The *Times* says:—"Mr. Parnell has taken a step which, though we wish to speak with all becoming reserve in such a matter, inspires us, we may be allowed to say, with profound astonishment. We have no doubt whatever that Scotch judges and juries will administer indifferent justice and honestly co-operate in the discovery of the truth, nor do we care very much for any tactical advantages which Mr. Parnell may think he has obtained. The main point to which public attention will be directed is the extraordinary delay in Mr. Parnell's resort to his legal remedy; and when the reason is asked, what answer can be made either before a jury or elsewhere? . . . If he had even announced his intention of taking his present course when the Government refused to assent to his demand for an inquiry before a Select Committee and offered the Special Commission as an alternative, his attitude would have been at all events an intelligible one. But he allowed the Special Commission Bill to be introduced without a frank and outspoken protest; he did not even declare that he would appeal to another tribunal when the restrictions he and his friends attempted to impose were refused by Parliament; and it is only when the bill has passed through both Houses and awaits the Royal assent that he has taken the initiatory steps towards an action in Scotland. If this course of proceeding has been adopted on the recommendation of the "unavowed advisers" who prevented Mr. O'Donnell from going into the witness-box, we venture to say, without knowing what their precise aims may be, that the effect on public opinion will be the same as in the former case. Of one thing we are quite clear. The Special Commission Bill was adopted by Parliament with the object of instituting a thorough inquiry into the whole of the "charges and allegations" embraced in our articles on Parnellism and Crime and in the Attorney-General's speech in court, and its operation cannot be stayed or restricted by any lesser or more limited investigation. Whether Mr. Parnell's Scotch action goes on or not, whether it be seriously meant or be only designed to waste time and to cause expense, the Commissioners, who will be invested with their full powers the moment the bill has received the Royal assent, will at once enter upon their work, and carry it through, without regard to any other considerations than those set forth in the Act of Parliament itself."

DEATH OF ONE OF THE SEVEN ESSAYISTS.

The death has just taken place at Lee, in Kent, in his eighty-fifth year, after a very painful illness of sixteen years' duration, of the Rev. Henry Bristow Wilson, vicar of Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire, one of the writers in the "Essays and Reviews," who was prosecuted at the time of the publication of that famous book at the suit of Mr. Fardell, in the diocese of Ely. Being condemned in the courts below, he made a magnificent speech in his own defence before the Privy Council in 1863. He was a scholar of St. John's College, Oxford, where he graduated in honours, was Select Preacher, Public Examiner, and Professor of Anglo-Saxon, while his Bampton Lectures in 1851 on the Communion of Saints created great attention at the time, and still more his letter to the Earl of Derby in 1854 on University Reform. His paper on "Schemes of Comprehension" in the "Oxford Essays" prepared the way for his essay on "The National Church" in the more celebrated "Essays and Reviews," and for a time his name as the one chosen for prosecution was in every one's mouth. He has died almost forgotten, while his fellow essayist, Dr. Temple, has risen to high place, and it is not a little singular that he should have died almost contemporaneously with Mr. (not "Dr.," as the papers have it) Burgeon, Dean of Chichester, whose indignation was much roused against Mr. Wilson's essay, but who appreciated thoroughly his quiet and conciliatory method of carrying on controversy, though it differed so much from his own more boisterous and vigorous action.

TERRIBLE INUNDATION IN CHILI.

HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST.

A Valparaiso telegram says:—A terrible disaster has occurred here. In consequence of the recent heavy rains a large reservoir burst, flooding the principal streets and stopping the traffic. Nearly a hundred houses have been laid in ruins and several hundred persons have been drowned. The total loss is estimated at a million dollars.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

AN ENGLISHMAN KILLED ON THE ALPS.

GENEVA, August 13.—Two Englishmen, named Ball, fell over a precipice last Saturday while ascending the Dent du Midi. One of them, who is seriously hurt, has been taken to the Hôtel Triage, at Salvan. The body of his companion has not yet been found, although active search is being made for it.

The Dent du Midi, which forms so striking an object from the head of the Lake of Geneva, is not one of the highest or specially difficult "ascents" in the Alps. It is 10,450 feet high; and though in the distant view from the Lake of Geneva its crags appear very rugged and inaccessible, the ascent of them is not in reality attended with great difficulty. The last few hours of the ascent, being over rocks and loose stones, are, however, very laborious. It does not appear from the above telegram whether the Englishmen had or had not guides with them. If they had not, one need go no further to account for the accident. If they had, the recent bad weather is probably responsible for it. By this period of the season, the path is ordinarily free from snow; but the fresh snows of late must have rendered the débris very slippery and deceitful.

DINIZULU AND THE TRANSVAAL.

PIETERMARITZBURG, August 13.—Sir Arthur Havelock, Governor of Natal, has notified the Transvaal of his intention of formally applying for the extradition of Dinizulu and Undabuko, it is understood on the charge of murder.

RUSSIA AND THE PORTE.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 13.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Petersburg* to-day positively contradicts the news lately published by a London morning paper that M. de Giers had caused representations to be made to the Porte insisting that the Ottoman Government should take advantage of the illegal seizure of the Vakarel Bellova Railway to effect a military reoccupation of Eastern Roumelia.

THE ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO SHOOT BOULANGER.

FURTHER AND LATER DETAILS.

We give on another page an account of an alleged attempt made yesterday at St. Jean d'Angely, to shoot General Boulanger. A Reuter's telegram from Paris to-day gives the following version of the affair:—The arrival of General Boulanger at St. Jean d'Angely yesterday afternoon gave rise to a serious affray, during which one of the General's opponents, M. Perrin, a professor of the Lycée, fired several shots from a revolver, which hit and wounded two peasants. According to some of the telegrams M. Perrin aimed at General Boulanger's carriage, without, however, doing any damage; while other accounts which are regarded as more probable state that M. Perrin was rushed upon and knocked down by several of his opponents, and fired in self defence. M. Perrin was, moreover, released after his examination by the local magistrate. During the affray the gendarmes had to intervene vigorously to restore order. The police arrested a large number of persons, of whom fifteen were detained in custody. General Boulanger returned to Paris in the evening.

THE ARTILLERY MEETING AT SHOEBOURNNESS.

The firing with the 64-pounder commenced at five minutes past eight this morning. The morning opened dull and cloudy, with a strong wind from west to south-west, but by ten o'clock the sky had cleared, and the sun shone brightly.

THE RAILWAY RACING TO SCOTLAND.

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Express* to-day says it is reported that remonstrances from influential quarters have been addressed to the President of the Board of Trade as to the railway racing to Scotland, and the danger incurred by the public.

STRANGE SUICIDE AT WANSTEAD.

Early yesterday morning a hat containing two letters was found in a field adjoining the Red Bridge public-house, at Wanstead. The letters clearly indicated that their writer had taken his own life. One was a pathetic epistle to the suicide's wife, stating that he was about to kill himself, and was signed "Fred." The other was an unwitnessed will, in which all his property was bequeathed to his "dear wife." Upon search being made, a body was found which was identified as that of Mr. F. Caiger, of Foregate, a confidential clerk at Messrs. Bryant and May's. The unhappy man seems to have concerted alternative methods for destroying his life, as upon his person were found a bottle of poison and a rope about 6 ft. long, in which a noose was already made.

Sir Beaumont Dixie has been received into the Church of Rome.

A Copenhagen telegram, dated to-day, says Princess Waldemar of Denmark was safely delivered of a son at midnight.

There is some idea of holding the next Pan-Anglican Council in the United States. The American Bishops have made the suggestion to the English prelates.

In our account of Mr. Whistler's wedding on Saturday we inadvertently omitted to mention the names of Dr. Whistler and Mrs. Whistler as being present.

A distinguished and elderly lady, a near connection by marriage of the Queen, was so pleased with the Great Northern that she travelled third class by the ten o'clock from King's-cross yesterday.

The important collection of engraved gems in the British Museum has been catalogued by Mr. A. H. Smith in the form of a small volume describing altogether 2,349 pieces.

The friends of Canon Knox Little will be glad to hear that good accounts have been received of his health from Denmark, where he is on a walking tour, sometimes covering thirty miles a day.

ALL ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA.

The most important cricket fixture of the season—the return match between England and Australia—commenced at the Oval to-day. It will be remembered that the first meeting took place in July last, when the Australians were victorious by 58 runs. The team representing England on the present occasion differs somewhat in its constitution from that which opposed the Colonials in the first match—Shuter, Wood, Ulyett, and Sugg taking the places of Steel, O'Brien, Gunn, and Sherwin, their opponents making no alteration. Every care and precaution seems to have been taken to secure a first-class wicket; and at the opening to-day the sward appeared in the pink of condition. The weather, too, is all that could be desired, whilst the attendance testifies to the enormous interest centred in the match. Two hours before the advertised time of commencement the paying public began to set the turnstiles revolving, and at noon every position of advantage was occupied.

(FROM OUR CRICKET CORRESPONDENT.)

The Australians won the toss, and decided to bat first, sending in a few minutes after twelve o'clock Bannerman and M'Donnell to face the deliveries of Lohmann (Pavilion end) and Peel. Bannerman received the first over from the Surrey bowler, which proved a maiden. Off Peel's third ball, however, the Australian captain was splendidly caught by Lohmann in the slips low down, without scoring—for one. Trotter came in. A maiden to each bowler followed, Trotter cut Peel for a single, Bannerman placing that bowler to leg for a like number. After four more singles Bannerman nicked Lohmann prettily for 3, Trotter cutting the same bowler a few balls later for a like number and 10 appeared. At twelve an appeal of being caught at the wicket was given in Bannerman's favour. Trotter then cut Peel for 3, Bannerman placing his next ball square for a like number. Trotter next played the same bowler finely to leg for 4, sending 20 up. This punishment caused Peel to be shunted in favour of Briggs. This had the desired effect, the new bowler in his second over clean bowling Trotter for 13—22 for two. Bonnor followed, but without scoring the Australian giant had his stumps disturbed by the second ball he received from Briggs—22 for 3. Edwards came next, and opened his account by placing Briggs for a single. Play then became very slow, maiden after maiden being sent down by each bowler. At last Bannerman succeeded in driving Lohmann to the off for 1, and an appeal for l.b.w. off Briggs was given in Bannerman's favour. At 1.15 the score was 25 for three wickets.

AUSTRALIANS.—First Innings.

M'Donnell, c Lohmann, b Peel	11	Bannerman, not out	11
Trotter, b Briggs	13	Edwards, not out	1
Bonnor, b Briggs	0		
		Total	25

"THE TWELFTH."

The grouse shooting season has opened in the Perthshire district, in dull weather. Nevertheless, many sportsmen were early on the hills. Birds are plentiful and wild, but owing to the continued wet weather, many are weak on the wing. The ground is very heavy for sportsmen. Trade depression has kept several shootings from being fully let. Prices are practically unchanged. The morning opened cloudy all over the Western Highlands. Sportsmen did not make a very early start, as rain fell somewhat heavily last evening.

On the Westmoreland moors there is no lack of game, and as a rule the birds are strong and well-fed. The night was very wild and the morning wet. Recent storms caused destruction among the partridges, which, however, were unusually plentiful, as many as eighteen having been counted in a covey.

Shooting opened in fair weather throughout North Wales. Sportsmen were early on the moors, and heavy bags are already made. The birds are numerous, free from disease, and strong on the wing.

HOW THE HOME SECRETARY WENT IN FOR HOME RULE

In an article entitled "A New Political Departure," in the forthcoming number of the *Universal Review*, Canon MacColl, speaking of the present Home Secretary, says: "I have it on his own authority that he adopted the policy of Home Rule after consultation with Mr. Disraeli."

THROUGH £300,000 IN TWO YEARS.

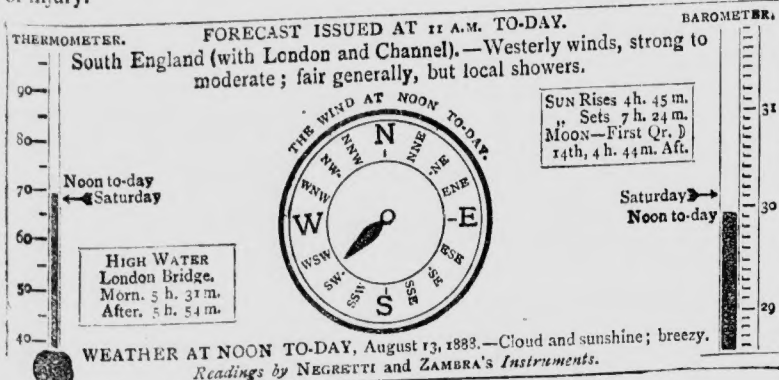
Much interest is taken (writes a London correspondent) in sporting and club circles in the case of a plunger who has attracted attention during the last few years by the extent of his bets, and who failed to settle last week for a small amount. Not much sympathy can be felt for a man who is stated to have run through a fortune of over £300,000 in a couple of years. It is said that the amount in question was small, and that it was an oversight, which will be made all right.

THE TRAFALGAR-SQUARE TEST CASE.

The case which has been submitted by Mr. Edward Dillon Lewis to Mr. Vaughan, one of the Bow-street magistrates, for his consideration in connection with the proceedings against Borgia arising out of the disturbances in Trafalgar-square, raises the following points of law: Whether the public have a right by law to hold public meetings in the Square? Whether it is lawful, by means of the police, by force or otherwise, to prevent the people so assembling? Whether processions of persons may of right by law pass along the thoroughfares adjoining or leading to the Square in order to attend public meetings or otherwise? And whether the prohibition by the police of such processions or meetings is warranted by common law or by statute?

THE BANNS FORBIDDEN.

As the vicar of South Acton parish church was publishing the marriage banns from the altar at the morning service yesterday, the congregation were startled by a young lady announcing in a clear and collected voice, "There is just cause or impediment." Her voice rang through the sacred building just at the moment when Mr. Dunn had concluded the customary invitation, "Ye are now to declare it." The lady appeared to be quite young, about sixteen or seventeen, and was pretty and well-dressed. She bore herself bravely, and refused to be hustled out. She was evidently labouring under a deep sense of injury.



THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-hast One.

HOME RAILWAYS DULL.—FOREIGN STOCKS BETTER.
AMERICANS QUIET.

In the Money Market this morning there is a tolerably large amount of floating capital seeking employment, and short loans are readily obtainable at 1½ per cent. The discount rate for three months' bank paper is fully maintained at 2¼ per cent., there being no disposition on the part of bill brokers to do business at a lower rate than that. It is anticipated that a large amount of gold will be shipped for Buenos Ayres this week, but it is not thought likely that much, if any, will be taken from the Bank of England. But still the knowledge that a large amount is to be taken is sufficient to induce caution, and hence the firmness of the discount rate.

The business transacted on the Stock Exchange is of quite a holiday character, and the movement of prices in consequence is on a restricted scale. As a rule values are maintained, but in some cases a fractional decline is marked. Consols and other high-class investment stocks are steady, but scarcely any transactions have been entered into. In the English Railway market there is less disposition to buy stock, and the tendency is rather adverse, except in the case of the Scotch stocks, which have been bought and are higher. Foreign Government Bonds are all higher where any change at all is shown, but there is little business passing. Peruvian issues have been speculatively bought, and are higher. American Railroads have moved in sympathy with New York prices, and the most important movement is an advance of ¾ in Central Pacific shares. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are neglected, but there has been an inquiry for Mexican Railway issues, which are higher. Spanish Copper Mining shares have improved, but Diamond shares are unchanged. Allsopp Brewery shares are the turn harder.

The Stock Market at New York on Saturday opened firm, with a general bullish feeling, but brokers with Western connections sold the list freely. Fractional losses resulted in the early dealings. Philadelphia and Reading, however, remained strong and advanced 1, when the rest followed, and a portion of the loss was regained. The market closed quiet and steady, at generally something under the first quotations.

The following are the latest changes compared with Saturday's closing:—

In Home Railways.—Improved: Great Northern Ordinary ½, Caledonian and North British ½. Lower: Hull and Barnsley and Chatham Preference ¼, Brighton Deferred and North Eastern ½.

Among Foreign Stocks.—Advanced: Egyptian Unified 5-16, the Daira ½, French Three and Four and a Half per Cents. ¼, Uruguay ¼, Turkish 1871 ¼, Groups 2, 3, and 4, ½, Spanish Four per Cents. 3-16, Peruvian 1872 3-16, the 1870 ½, and Russian 1873 ½.

American Railroads.—Risen: New York Central and Philadelphia and Reading shares ¼, Denver Preference and Central Pacific ¾, Louisville and Nashville and Mexican Central Bonds ½. Fallen: Illinois Central ½, Erie Second Mortgage and Northern Pacific Preference ¼, Denver Ordinary, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Union Pacific, and Wabash Preference ½.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—Higher: Mexican Second Preference ¾, the First Preference ½, the Ordinary ¾, and South Austrian shares 1-16. Lower: Grand Trunk First Preference ½.

Mason and Barry, and Rio Tinto are up ¼, Allsopp's, and Bryant and May ½, and Montana 1-16, but Hudson's Bay, and Spratt's shares are down ¼.

The Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation (Limited) offer for subscription a portion of the share capital of the New York Breweries Company (Limited). The total share capital is £600,000 in 30,000 Eight per Cent. Preference shares and 30,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each. In addition £330,000 Six per Cent. Mortgage Debentures will also be created, these being secured as a first charge on the whole of the company's property, and redeemable at 110 after December 31, 1903, at the option of the company, on six months' notice. The company will acquire and amalgamate, and carry on the H. Clausen and Son Brewery Company, and Flanagan, Nay, and Co., both of New York City.

Letters of allotment in the Monte Video Telephone Company (Limited) have been posted.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market continues quiet, and prices are the turn in favour of buyers. Sales 8,000. Futures are dull, at a decline of 2 points for August, and mostly one point for other positions.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			Brighton (Ordinary)			London and County		
Consols	100½	¾	Do. A.	124½	5	Union of London ..	84½	5½
New Consols 2½ ..	99½	¾	Chatham (Ordinary)	124½	5	London and West. ..	38½	9½
Reduced 3 p.c.	100½	¾	Do. Preference ..	101	3½	London Joint Stock ..	66	7
Local Loan Stock ..	103½	¾	North Western	170½	1½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. ..	33½	9½
New 2½ p.c.	95½	6½	South Western	136	7	Stand. Bnk. S. Afric.	43	4
India 3½ p.c.	105½	¾	Manchester & Sheff.	67	9			
Do. 4½ p.c.	69½	¾	Do. A.	39½	5½	Indian Consolidated	5-16	7-16
Egyptian Guar.	102	¾	Met. Consolidated ..	73½	4½	Mysore shares	3½	¾
Met. Bd. Wks.	113	¾	Do. Land Stock ..	70	1	Oreogums	1½	¾
Do. 3 p.c. Scrip.	103½	¾	Do. District	34½	5	Cape Copper	3½	¾
Birmingham Crp. Stk.	109½	10½	Midland	132½	3½	Mason and Barry ..	9½	¾
Liverpool	111	¾	North British	114½	15	Namaqua	2½	¾
FOREIGN STOCKS.			North Eastern	153½	¾	Montana and Barry ..	20½	¾
Argentina 6 p.c.	103	5	North Stafford	130	11	Rio Tinto	1½	¾
Do. Hard Dols.	63½	¾	South Eastern	130	7	De Beers	25½	6
Do. Treasury	98	9	Do. Deferred	105½	¾	Kimberley Cent.	30½	¾
Austrian Gold	90	2	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.			TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONE.		
Do. Silver	66	8	Canada Pacific	59½	65	Anglo-American ..	40½	1½
Brazilian 1875	102½	¾	Gen. Pacific Shares	30½	7	Do. Pref.	67½	8½
B. Ayres 6 p.c.	102	4	Chic. Mil. and St. P.	75	½	Direct Unit. States ..	9½	¾
Do. Cedulas	61½	4	Denver & R. Grande	69½	70½	Eastern	12½	¾
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1875	100	2	Do. Pref.	51½	¾	Ditto Extension	12½	13½
Costa Rica A.	88½	9½	Illinois Shares	123	4	United Telephone ..	13½	¾
Do. B.	87½	8½	Lake Shore	99	¾	Globe Tel. Frust ..	6½	7½
Egypt. State Dom.	101½	2	Ohio & Mississippi	24½	¾	TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
Do. Unified	84½	5	Louis. and Nash.	61½	2	London Gen. Om.	208	13
Do. Preference	102½	¾	Mex. Cen. Bonds ..	69½	70½	London Street	13	14
Do. Daira Sanien ..	79½	¾	Do. Nat. "A"	61	2	London Tramway ..	14	15
French 3 p.c. Rnts.	82½	¾	Miss. Kan. & Texas	15	½	North Metropolitan	13	15½
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts.	105	¾	N. Y. Cen. Shares ..	110½	11	WATERWORKS.		
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	73½	4	New York Ontario ..	17	¾	Chelsea Waterworks ..	252	7
Hung. Gold Rentes ..	82½	6	Erie Shares	29½	½	East London	196	20½
Italian	95½	¾	Do. Sec. Mort.	101	½	Grand Junction	123	8
Mexican Converted ..	39½	¾	Norfolk & West. Pre	51½	2½	Kent	267	72
Peruvian 5 p.c. 72 ..	14	¾	N.Y.P. & O. 1st Mr	38½	9	Lambeth	257	62
Do. 6 p.c.	15½	¾	North Pacific Pref	58½	0	New River, New ..	347	52
Portuguese	64½	¾	Pennsylvania Sh.	55½	6	St. Hwrk. & Vauxhall	101	6
Russian 1873	98	¾	Phil. and Read. Sh.	26½	¾	W. Middlesex	264	9
Spanish 4 p.c.	73	½	Union Pacific Shares	62½	¾	GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Turkish 1854	99	101	Wabash Preferred ..	27½	8½	Gaslight & Coke A ..	254	3
Group 1	24½	¾	Do. Gen. Mort.	46	¾	Imp. Continental ..	205	8
Group 2	15	¾	Grand Trunk Sh.	13	¾	South Metropolitan	315	20
Groups 3 and 4 ..	24½	15½	Do. First Pref.	59	½	Brush Elec. Lt. (4 p.)	3	½
4½ p.c. 1871 ..	86½	¾	Do. Second Pref.	41	¾	MISCELLANEOUS.		
5 p.c. Defence ..	96½	¾	Do. Third Pref.	23	¾	Allsopp	8½	5½
5 p.c. Priority ..	82	4	Do. Guaranteed ..	67	¾	Guinness and Co.	315	20
Uruguay Unified	72½	¾	Mexican Ordinary ..	40½	7½	Hotchkiss	8½	¾
Virginia Funded	43½	4½	Do. 2nd Pref	120½	¾	Bryant and May ..	12½	¾
U.S. 4½ p.c.	107½	8½	Ob. do. 2nd Pref ..	79½	¾	Spratt's Patent ..	9½	¾
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			Lombardo-Venetian ..	8½	¾	P. and O. Steam ..	62	4
Caledonian	105½	¾	Varna 3 per cent ..	6½	7	Royal Mail Steam ..	59	6½
Great Eastern	68	¾	Nitrate Railway	25½	6	Nat. Discount Co.	11	11
Great Northern	113½	10½	BANKS.			Hudson's Bay	19½	7½
Ditto A.	102	3	Alliance Bank	13	¾	Suez Canal	86½	7½
Great Western	144½	5½	City Bank	7½	8½	E. & W. Ind. Dock ..	24	6
Hull and Barnsley ..	29½	3½	Consolidated Bank ..	7½	8½	London and St.		
Lanc. and York.	113	19	Imperial Ottoman ..	10½	11	Katharine	33	40

WHAT THE IRISH FLEET DID (!)

A TERRIBLE BILL OF DAMAGE.

The *Daily Chronicle* correspondent with the Irish fleet gives "an official calculation of the damage we have done :—"

Aberdeen—£400,000, and all shipping destroyed.
 Edinburgh and Leith—£1,000,000, all shipping at Leith destroyed and Forth Bridge blown up; from Inchgarvie demanded 3,000 tons of coal in four hours, to complete ships, also fifteen bullocks, twenty sheep, one ton fresh vegetables, or destruction of castle, palace, and city.
 Tyne—£500,000 from Shields, and all shipping destroyed.
 Newcastle—£1,000,000, or destruction of docks and manufactories.
 Sunderland—£100,000, and all shipping destroyed.
 Hartlepool—£500,000, and all shipping destroyed.
 Scarborough—£500,000, or destruction.
 Grimsby—£500,000, and all shipping destroyed.

That is a pretty good record for four ships for three days, and I am not sure but local opinion will think the value of the places has been fixed on a low scale. Up till the time that we detached our consorts to destroy the Hartlepool's and Scarborough we had theoretically sunk, on August 6, four steamers and one small schooner. On the morning of the 7th, one tug, one barque, and brigantine; and on the fourth, 18 steamers, 33 tugs, 46 sailing vessels, and two steam-dredgers. On the whole, these vessels, with their cargoes, may be taken as at least worth £8,000 apiece, and some of them, doubtless, had cargoes valued at as much more, or say £800,000 in all, at £15 per ton.

WHAT THE BRITISH FLEET CAN'T DO.

The *Daily News* correspondent with the Irish Fleet writes:—The war which, so far as England was concerned, was at its commencement altogether offensive, is now purely defensive; nor should I omit to add that the Irish commanders have so far been victorious in face of the most adverse circumstances. Besides being greatly inferior in strength, they were shut up in harbours with narrow entrances. All credit to them for what they have done! The operations are not of course ended, and a brilliant English victory may yet neutralise our numerous successes; but meanwhile the country has received a lesson from which it will not be slow to take warning. Great Britain's fleet, large though it is, is not large enough to undertake a war, even though that war be simply defensive. It could not as it is blockade, say, the ships of France in the harbour of Brest, Cherbourg, and Toulon, French cruisers—any French ship, indeed, which possessed speed—could escape and ravage the coast of England; and Britain would, for a time at least, be at the mercy of those Uhlans of the ocean. The lesson teaches us that we must build a great many more fast cruisers—I dare not interpret its teaching in any other way, for the need is clearly a pressing one; and I venture to think that some of these fast cruisers should be ironclads.

A POINT TOO EARLY MADE.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at Stockton on Saturday night on the work of the session, said they accepted the Opposition challenge, and had shown what the Unionist Government could do in placing laws upon the statute-book. He contended that the Local Government Bill had passed with substantially the same principles with which it was introduced, and yet it was thought that that bill would take at least two sessions. Alluding to the Parnell Commission Bill, he asked why, if the great heart of the people was with them, Mr. Parnell would not even trust a Scotch jury? Touching upon the Imperial Defence and the National Defence Bills, he alluded to the colonial policy of the present Government, and said that the Government would put the legislation they had accomplished, both as to value and magnitude, against the legislation of any two sessions in the history of the century.

A PROPOSED JOURNALISTS INSTITUTE.

A general meeting of the London district of the National Association of Journalists was held on Saturday evening, Mr. P. W. Clayden presiding. The by-laws and regulations of the proposed Institute of Journalists came up for consideration. Considerable discussion took place as to the rule constituting an examining body; and it was generally agreed, after explanation, that the proviso would be of the utmost value. It was further agreed to suggest to the conference that the institute should not undertake the obligation of assisting members to obtain employment. It was moreover resolved to instruct the delegates from the London district at the Bristol conference to oppose a motion of which notice had been given to rescind the rule admitting lady journalists to membership of the association. It was pointed out that since the rule was adopted several ladies had been elected members of the association, and could not legally be displaced.

ALLEGED INTIMIDATION BY SHIPPING COMPANIES.

The Lord Chief Justice gave judgment on Saturday in a very important action brought by Messrs. McGregor, Gow, and Co., steamship owners, against a number of rival shipping companies, including the Peninsular and Oriental, the Ocean Steamship Company, the Castle Line, the Ben Line, Mr. T. Sutherland, M.P., and others to recover damages for an alleged illegal combination to boycott and ruin by means of bribing and intimidating shippers in China not to send goods by the plaintiff's ships. The case was brought forward last year and his lordship now delivered a very elaborate judgment. He held that the defendants were justified in using inducements, such as a 5 per cent. rebate to shippers, by the combination, and in withholding that advantage from those who did not ship exclusively by the combination ships. It was fair trade competition, and not unlawful. He therefore gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

A "SHOCKING PLACE FOR ANY ONE TO EXIST IN."

An inquest was held at Poplar Town Hall on Saturday into the circumstances attending the death of a little fellow of seven named Ephraim John Bond, the son of a bricklayer, at 13, Brunswick-road, Poplar. The child was taken ill on Sunday, and died on Monday night. The mother said her house had been flooded, and a large quantity of sewage matter still lay under the floor. Dr. Wadley said when he saw the deceased on Monday night he was suffering from bronchitis and "dying as fast as he could." Without doubt his illness was attributable to the state of the house, as owing to the water under the floor and the dampness of the walls it was a shocking place for the child or any one else to exist in. The cause of death was acute bronchitis. Verdict accordingly.

THE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION STUDENTS.

The successful visit of the University Extension students to Oxford was brought to a close on Saturday. Before leaving, addresses were presented to Mr. Poulton, representing the committee of delegates, and Mr. Hewins, the secretary, on behalf of the students, by Mr. Hugh Jones, local secretary of Rhyd, who, in making the presentations, said the addresses were an evidence of their feeling that the University, in instituting such a movement as that, was setting its hand to a work which was truly national, for it was extending the benefits of university teaching to the people at large. Mr. Hewins, in acknowledging the address, said what had been a great venture had been made a great success by the enthusiasm with which they had attended the lectures, and he felt the time had arrived when Oxford should throw open her city and colleges to University extension students, and expressed the hope that the movement commenced in 1888 would not be suffered to die, but that he, or some one else in his capacity, would meet them all again next year, either in Oxford or Cambridge. It was announced that funds to the amount of £50 were in hand, which would be devoted to the purchase of travelling libraries, and thereby greatly increase the efficiency of the extension.

HOW SOME PRISONERS ARE TREATED IN ENGLAND.

Some strange disclosures as to the treatment of prisoners were made at an inquest at Chelmsford prison on Saturday. The inquiry was into the death of Thomas Ingate, who, on May 7, was sentenced to four months' hard labour for assaulting a police-constable at West Ham. Major Lane (governor of the prison) said that Ingate had been in prison five times previously. In those periods he had once received extra punishment for laughing while on the wheel; on another occasion he had been put on bread and water for three days for defacing a meat tin; a third occasion he had been given extra hard labour for loitering while on the wheel; and on a fourth occasion he had been given an additional fortnight on the wheel for looking round in chapel. In reply to the coroner (Mr. C. C. Lewis), Major Lane said that the latter punishment was the heaviest he had the power to inflict. The coroner said he thought that in such cases as this it would be well to err on the side of mercy. He suggested that the punishment should be modified in future. Medical evidence was given to the effect that Ingate's death was caused by jaundice, and a verdict was returned accordingly.

THE POISONING CASE AT WALTHAMSTOW.

William Barber, the chemist's assistant who was arrested in connection with what is known as "the Walthamstow mystery," was again brought before the Stratford magistrates on Saturday, charged, on suspicion, with causing the death of Annie Mary French, the wife of a provision dealer's manager, by administering to her a certain noxious drug. Mr. Angus Lewis appeared for the public prosecutor, and Mr. F. Bore for the accused.

The lad Playle was recalled, and said he had never until the day of the deceased's death taken a note from Barber to Mrs. French, but he had taken notes to Mr. French.

Arthur French, the husband of the deceased, was the first witness, and gave evidence similar to that given by him at the inquest. It bore chiefly on his relations with Barber, who had been in the habit of visiting at witness's house, and who had latterly had his dinners sent to the shop from there. Deceased had suffered from toothache. One night Barber had rubbed chloroform on her cheek. She had gone to Barber's shop about her teeth with witness's knowledge. Witness had never had any occasion to complain of prisoner's conduct.

Other evidence having been given as to the finding of the body, Dr. Thorpe was called, and spoke to the efforts he had made to restore consciousness. He gave also the results of his post-mortem examination.

Ultimately prisoner, who had taken copious notes, was again remanded for the attendance of the Government analyst.

DEATH OF A BELGIAN HISTORIAN.—The historian M. Théodore Juste is, says a Brussels correspondent, dead. He was the author of more than fifty volumes. His best work is a history of Belgium. He was at the head of the Museum of Antiquities in Brussels, and was an eminent member of the Academy. M. Juste was born in January, 1818, and was thus in his seventy-first year.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT.—The score in the international chess tournament at Bradford at the close of the play on Saturday evening was:—Mackenzie, 7½; Bardeleben, 7½; Gunsburg, 7½; Mason, 7; Weiss, 6; Bird, 5; Blackburne, 5; Burne, 5; Larbenhaus, 5; Lee, 4; Locock, 4; Thorold, 3½; Owen, 2½; Pollock, 2; Mortimer, 2; Rumball, 2; Hall, none.

FAYE'S COMET.—Faye's periodic comet was seen near the calculated position by an observer at Nice Observatory at 20 minutes after three on Friday morning. The position was—right ascension 5 h. 0 min. 28 sec.; North Polar distance, 69 deg. 59 min. 18 sec. Comet Brooks was in right ascension 10 h. 22 min., and North Polar distance 45 deg. 11 min. at 10 P.M. on the 9th inst., and the daily motion was 7½ minutes decreasing right ascension, and 9 minutes increasing Polar distance.

SUITABLE PRESENT TO A CHINESE VICEROY.—A present of a complete train has been sent by a recent steamer to Li Hung Chang from France. It was specially made for the Viceroy of Pechihli at Lyons, and is composed of six carriages, of which three are for the Emperor and his chief Ministers, two for the guards, and one for the luggage. This train is to run on the short railway of six kilometres specially constructed near Peking for the instruction and edification of the young Emperor. The carriages, it is needless to say, have been prepared in a luxurious style, and bear the Imperial arms of the dragon.

SINGULAR ELEPHANT ACCIDENT.—Another elephant accident is reported from Vienna. A menagerie was on its way to Haus, a small locality near Schlading, and just before reaching its destination it had to cross a bridge running over a narrow but deep ravine. All went well until the elephant's van reached the bridge, when with a loud crash the woodwork gave way and the huge beast fell heavily to the ground below. There the animal remained lying down, and could not be induced to get up again. It was there for three weeks, food being brought to it every day. It has just died, though nothing is known as to the nature of the injuries it sustained by the fall.

THE VOLUNTEERS AT ALDERSHOT.—Aldershot was astir on Saturday evening from five till seven, owing to the arrival of the 4,000 volunteers who have assembled for the annual week's training with the regulars. Detachments of metropolitan corps furnished the majority of the men, who have been formed into six provisional battalions, in addition to which there are two divisions of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps and the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. The whole arrived in good time, and were detained in remarkably smart order without noise or confusion, and in a short time they were on the march to their respective camps.

HOW THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA WAS CELEBRATED.

A SKETCH OF THE CEREMONY IN ST. PETERSBURG.

IN St. Petersburg (writes a correspondent in the Russian capital) the celebration of the ninth centenary of the conversion of Russia to Christianity commenced early on the 27th July. A little after sunrise all the bells in the churches were set ringing, and the rich and resonant peal of Isaacs Cathedral might be heard above all as they rang slowly on the morning air, none of the noises of the city having then commenced. Every house had its flag, the boats going down the canals and on the Neva were gaily decorated, and the whole city was ablaze with the crimson of its decorations. From all the public buildings the Russian colours—white, dark blue, and red—were fluttering, and at an early hour the Nevsky was crowded with thousands on their way to the early seven o'clock mass at St. Vladimir's Church, from whence the first procession was to start. Everything was full of light and life. The shrines at the street corners were brilliant with hundreds of lighted candles placed in enormous candelabra standing before each holy picture, or group of holy pictures, that were reflected in the mirror-like silver and massive gilding of the frames. Crowds stood before these shrines, saying a short prayer as they paused to make the sign of the cross on themselves, while the monks and black robed sisters of charity standing by were reaping for the poor a harvest of kopecks.

The costumes of the peasants were unusually rich, even the poorest had the most gorgeous of Oriental silk handkerchiefs on their heads, and gowns of most striking hues, deep greens, deep blues, reds of all shades, orange, purple, and often combinations of the whole. Officers and Court officials in gorgeous uniforms covered with gold and silver ornaments drove in open carriages rapidly towards the Winter Palace; and the priests, with their long hair and their silk gowns of purple, black, or brown, magnificent crosses of gold, massively designed, and studded with diamonds and ame-

thysts, suspended from gold chains around their necks, moved amongst the crowds in all directions. It was a brilliant scene right along the entire length of the Nevsky; the picturesque costumes of the Circassian women, with their small square caps pressed closely down to meet the arch of their eyebrows, and covered with long lace or gauze veils, their brilliant beauty and graceful movements being one of the sights most strange. Of course all the shops and bazaars were closed, even those of the Jews, and remained closed during the entire day. After the Mass at the Vladimir Church was ended the procession was formed, the priests wearing long white robes, taken from the treasure chamber at Isaacs. At nine o'clock all the priests and those Bishops forming the procession from St. Vladimir's had arrived, and the High Mass commenced, ending at eleven. Immediately after mass the procession was formed, and after the choir had sung some selections, and the Bishop officiating had offered up a prayer to Christ and the Virgin Mary, the procession proceeded on its way, stopping at all the churches and shrines on the road, in order to receive more priests, and also from every church a Bishop, who, standing on the steps of the church, after a short prayer, signed the crowd with the form of the Cross, and then joined them. The procession, which at first formed 1,600 people, went by the Nicolai Bridge over the Neva and alongside that part of the river known as the English Quay, where they were joined by a second procession from Isaacs Cathedral and by the Metropolitan, Isidore.

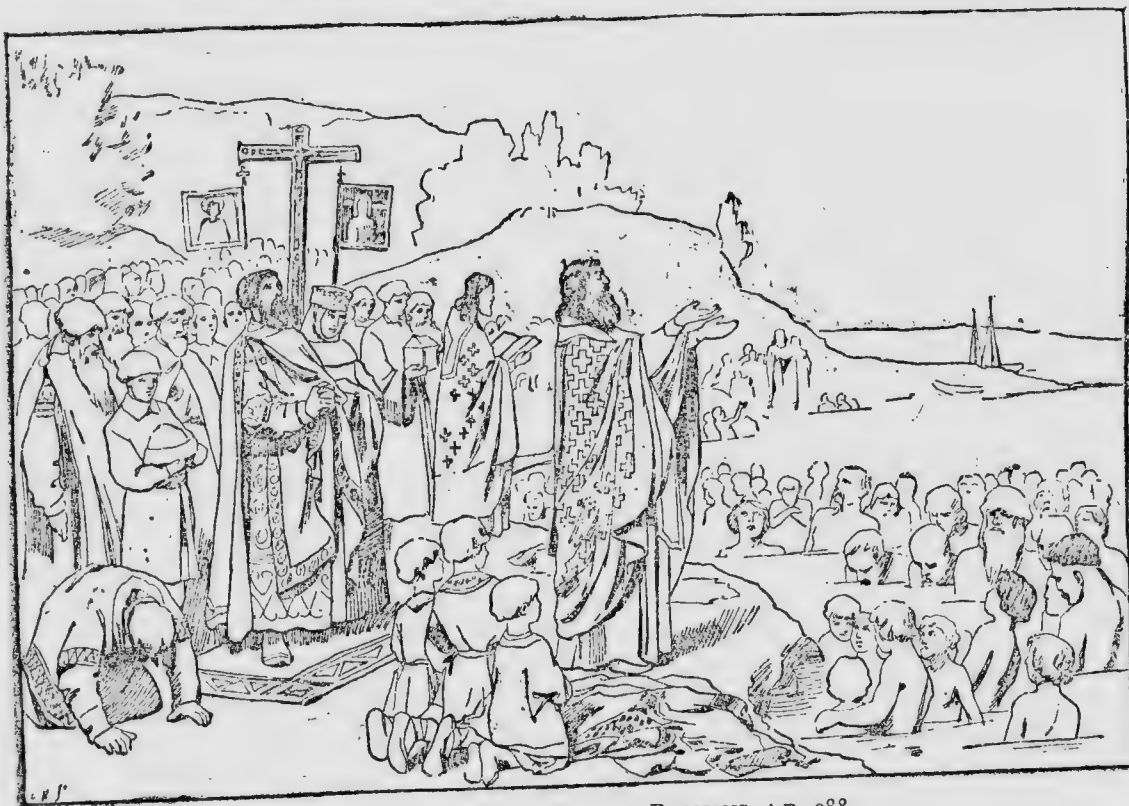
At the head of the procession were deacons with lanterns, then church readers, then deacons with incense and readers with banners. The priests came next, carrying the Gospels, encased in massive gold and silver bindings, studded with jewels, and after them the singers from the Vladimir Church. Then followed six priests and four deacons carrying incense and an immense picture of St. Vladimir, and then behind all the Archbishop, with seven Bishops. This was the ecclesiastical portion of the procession, and with the varied colours of the banners,

the incense, the richly-bound Gospels, and the hundreds of priests in white robes, was most striking and beautiful. After the Archbishop came the members of the Slavonic Society, grouped around the two holy pictures, with General Alexander Kiréeff, acting for Count Ignatieff, the president, at their head, and then behind them followed all the representatives of the various trades, with their banners.

The procession then moved slowly on to a part of the Neva called the Jordan, where the Metropolitan dipped the cross he carried in the water, and at that moment the Tzar, in the uniform of a General, surrounded by a glittering array of horse guards, with the Tzarina in a white dress, and the Tzarewitch, came up, followed by the various Grand Dukes and their wives, and various members of the Royal family.

As the cross was dipped in the water, and the Tzar appeared, cannon were fired from the fort of SS. Peter and Paul, on the other side of the river, almost facing the English Embassy. The procession, with bands playing, accompanied by the Tzar, the Royal family, and vast companies of soldiers, then moved on, singing as it went, to the enormous place before the Winter Palace, where the Alexander Column stands in the centre. Around this a magnificent dais had been raised, covered with crimson cloth, and ornamented with large palms, and beside it three pavilions, which appeared

to outsiders one bower of white hot-house flowers, white lilies, and roses, in which the Royal family and the Tzar were accommodated. The priests, with the Metropolitan and all the Bishops, the singers from the Court chapel in their scarlet silk and gold braided gowns—a choir, the most famous in Europe—assembled on the dais around the statue, and around the statue thousands of soldiers, Cossacks, Circassians, guards, and marine officers, with the Grand Duke Vladimir commanding, were stationed, with their bands and colours. A great *Te Deum* was then sung by the



ST. VLADIMIR BAPTIZING THE RUSSIANS, A.D. 988.

choir, all the bells of the churches in the city ringing loudly and almost continuously, and after the Metropolitan had said a prayer for the Tzar, the Royal family, and the general welfare of the Church and Russia, he gave the crowd his blessing, making the sign of the cross over them. Then, after the Tzar, the Tzarina, the Tzarewitch, the Royal family, and the various priests and Bishops had kissed the cross he presented, the proceedings terminated, amid the ringing cheers of the people, the music of the choir and bands, and the deafening clanging of the bells from all parts of the city.

In the evening a brilliant gathering was invited by the Slavonic Society to one of the large concert halls, which was beautifully decorated with flowers and banners, an enormous painting of the Emperor surrounded with evergreens, and above a crystal cross, illuminated by electricity, standing behind and above the platform. A choir was stationed at the end of the room, on a raised dais, and various sacred selections were sung, and during the evening most interesting speeches on the future of Russia, of Christianity, and upon religion were made by General Kiréeff and several other members of the society.

MR. BLAINE ON ENGLAND AND FREE TRADE.

Mr. Blaine delivered a speech at New York on Saturday, in the course of which he said that the English were all in favour of President Cleveland's tariff ideas. He did not speak with disrespect of England, for he had received a graceful welcome there, and had been entertained with much hospitality, which he would be a churl if he did not acknowledge. But this did not change the essential condition that Americans found their interests in one policy, and that the English wanted to change that to bring it into conformity with their own interests. If the workers in the United States would agree to live in as poor houses, eat as poor food, and receive as low wages as English operatives they could produce just as cheap goods as the Democrats wanted. He argued in favour of Protection, citing again the bad situation of wage workers abroad.

THE RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR. GIFFEN'S statistics of the railways of the United Kingdom for the year 1887, which has just been issued, show that the country is still laying out capital and adding to the enormous total sunk in these undertakings. During 1877 the capital paid up was increased by 17½ millions in round figures, and reached the enormous total of just on 846 millions. Both in the gross and in comparison with the extent of line open the capital has increased, as per mile of line open it amounts to £43,210, or £363 per mile above 1886. Judged by the net receipts, 1887 was a shade better than 1886, the proportion to total paid-up capital being exactly 4 per cent., as against 3.99 per cent. The working expenditure has stood at 52 per cent. of the gross receipts for two years under which it has not been since 1872, with the exception of 1880, when it was 51 per cent. Dividing the different classes of capital and separating the three countries they stand as follows:—

THE CAPITAL INVESTED.

	STOCK AND SHARES.			LOANS AND DEBENTURES.		
	Ordinary.	Guaranteed.	Preferential.	Loans.	Debenture Stock.	TOTAL CAPITAL.
England and Wales	263,956,572	82,299,919	177,195,547	8,305,883	170,786,482	702,554,493
Scotland	24,174,041	13,575,674	35,984,436	2,074,669	20,555,122	105,959,962
Ireland	16,054,704	1,427,052	8,275,700	1,442,042	8,537,754	36,457,289
United Kingdom	314,795,317	97,372,702	221,451,683	12,422,574	199,979,358	845,971,654

THE RECEIPTS GROSS AND NET.

The companies had in all 19,578 miles of line open on 31st December last (England 13,825, Scotland 3,079, and Ireland 2,674), and their gross net receipts were as under:—

	Passenger traffic.	Goods traffic.	Total receipts.	Net receipts.	Per cent. expenditure.
England and Wales	26,075,764	21,692,729	60,502,925	23,738,721	53
Scotland	2,920,264	4,368,500	7,610,667	3,837,050	50
Ireland	1,506,259	1,200,070	2,829,794	1,304,339	54
	30,573,227	37,341,299	70,913,576	33,680,110	52

THE RETURN TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

As we have stated, the net receipts were equal to 4 per cent. on the total paid-up capital, but the shareholders have not been in the happy position of realizing that return. A few have been lucky enough to obtain as much as 13½ per cent., but on nearly sixty millions of the share capital no dividend at all has been paid. The following table shows the rate of dividend paid on the ordinary, guaranteed, and preferential stock in the United Kingdom:—

Rate per Cent. of Dividend Paid.	Ordinary.	Guaranteed.	Preferred.
Capital of New Companies the Lines of which were in course of construction:—			
No Dividend paid	1,696,289	—	22,301
3 per cent. paid	103,576	—	—
4 " "	4,264,503	—	1,830,498
5 " "	42,431	—	22,550
Capital of Constructed Lines upon which no Dividend was Paid	45,891,336	30,000	11,920,689
Dividends Paid:			
Not exceeding 1 per cent.	3,682,253	—	1,704,994
Exceeding 1 and not exceeding 2 p. c.	4,019,741	101,180	202,779
" 2 " "	25,402,123	—	431,404
" 3 " "	36,467,461	54,874,404	137,080,626
" 4 " "	76,313,760	38,191,571	64,135,587
" 5 " "	71,819,729	4,119,580	3,895,255
" 6 " "	38,188,031	—	—
" 7 " "	3,685,800	5,967	—
" 8 " "	677,958	—	40,000
" 9 " "	827,326	50,000	—
" 10 " "	—	—	—
" 11 " "	—	—	—
" 12 " "	30,000	—	—
At 13½ per cent.	1,678,000	—	165,000
Total United Kingdom	314,795,317	97,372,702	221,451,683

Of the loans and debenture stock on about 150 millions "3 and not exceeding 4 per cent. was paid, and on about 60 millions 4 and not exceeding 5."

HOW THE PUBLIC RIDE.

To show how the public ride and what are the receipts from the separate classes we give the number of passengers and the receipts:—

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total.	Season.
England and Wales	25,260,910	58,005,233	564,508,813	647,774,956	990,815
Scotland	4,695,255	1,930,158	59,807,204	66,432,617	51,579
Ireland	1,367,624	4,203,965	13,899,369	19,470,958	23,695
United Kingdom	31,323,789	64,139,356	638,215,386	733,678,531	1,066,089

RECEIPTS FROM PASSENGERS.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Season.	Total.
England and Wales	£2,541,431	£2,399,960	£15,785,424	£1,744,207	£22,471,022
Scotland	374,001	78,971	1,815,462	178,362	2,446,796
Ireland	166,076	309,872	692,158	50,430	1,218,536
United Kingdom	3,081,508	2,788,803	18,293,044	1,972,999	26,136,354

The yellow fever having been declared epidemic at Jacksonville, Florida, strict quarantine has been ordered at other ports, and arrangements have been made to fumigate the mails and luggage conveyed by the railways from Florida.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

SEASON 1887.

FREEMAN THOMAS' SEVENTH ANNUAL SERIES OF PROMENADE CONCERTS, THIS EVENING, at 8. Admission One Shilling. Grand Orchestra, 150 Performers and Band of the Coldstream Guards combined. Conductor: Mr. A. Gwynllym Crowe. Smoking Lounges in all parts of the Theatre. This Evening, Vocalists: MR. SIMS REEVES and NIKITA, Mr. Edward Howell (Solo Violoncello). Prices of admission—Private Boxes from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s.; Grand Circle seats (numbered and reserved), 2s. 6d.; First Circle (numbered and reserved), 2s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, Amphitheatre, and Promenade, One Shilling. Doors open 7.30; commence at 8. Season Tickets (transferable) One Guinea. Box-office open daily 10 to 5. NOTE.—TO-MORROW (Tuesday), Vocalists: NIKITA, Mmes. ANTOINETTE STERLING, and Signor NOVARA.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, and EVERY EVENING (except Saturday). MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2. Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD as DR. JERYLL AND MR. HYDE.

Sole Authorized Version—Mr. Mansfield's original creation. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) now open daily from 10 to 5.

CRITERION THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

BETSY, the celebrated Criterion Comedy, by F. C. BURNARD, THIS EVENING at 9, with the original cast, including Messrs. W. Blakeley, H. Standing, A. Maltby, A. Boucicault, and Geo. Giddens; Mesdames Rose Saker, F. Robertson, E. Terriss, F. Moore, E. Penrose, and Lottie Venn. Preceded by, at 8.15, THE DOWAGER. Messrs. H. Standing, E. Emery, C. Crofton; Mesdames E. Terriss, F. Moore, and Rose Saker. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open from 10 A.M. till 5 P.M. Prices: Private Boxes, £1 1s. to £3 3s.; Stalls, 10s. 6d. and 7s. 6d.; Dress circle, 7s. and 5s.; Family Circle, 3s. Pit, 2s. 6d. Gallery, 1s. N.B. Stage and Auditorium Lighted entirely by Electricity.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at Eight, THE UNION JACK. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, L. Cautey, D. Somers, H. Russell, H. Hailey, &c.; Mrs. Milward; Mesdames Helen Forsyth, O. Netherlands, D. Drummond, E. Lutton, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, THE REFUGEES. Mr. D. Somers, Miss Agnes Miller, &c.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)

JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 149th Time. Great success. TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, a New Comedy in Five Acts, by ROBERT BUCHANAN, entitled JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. Preceded, at 7.45, by a new One Act Play, entitled THE BROTHERS, by H. BYATT. Messrs. W. Rignold, C. Maude, J. S. Blythe, S. Bust, F. Gillmore, F. Grove, J. Wheatman, and Fred Thorne; Mesdames G. Homfrey, Arnold, McNeill, Harrison, Maunders, and Kate Korke. Box-office open to till 6.30.

GAIETY THEATRE.

Miss SOPHIE EYRE.—Special Season under her direction.

EVERY EVENING at 8.45, the new Four-Act Play MARINA, by JOHN COLEMAN. Marina, Miss Eyre; other characters by Misses Carlotta Leclercq, End Leslie, Lucy Buckstone; Messrs. E. D. Ward, Herbert Waring, Julian Cross, Fred. Terry, H. Maxwell, James East, Glenn Wynn, &c. Preceded at 8 by POLLY'S VENTURE. Box-office open to till 6 daily. "SILE" is in preparation. Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Eugene C. Stafford; Manager, Mr. John Cobbe.

TERRY'S THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)

(Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.)

The safest and coolest Theatre in London, constructed entirely with concrete and iron, absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout with electricity. TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A. W. PINERO'S New Three Act Domestic Drama, SWEET LAVENDER. 149th Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, T. C. Valentine, Bernard Gould, F. Kerr, Saint Matthews; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Abbott, and Norreys. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats at the Libraries and Box-office, open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.

GLOBE THEATRE.

(Lessees and Managers, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE and Miss EDITH WOODWORTH.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.45, BOOTLES' BABY. 25th Time. Messrs. Charles Sugden, Edmund Maurice, C. W. Garthorne, Forbes Dawson, Gilbert Farquhar, C. Kent, and Charles Collette; Mesdames Webster, Henrietta Lindley, Rose Evelyn, Maud Merrill, Minnie Terry. At 7.45, THREE COLOURS. Messrs. Forbes Dawson, A. J. Hyde; Mesdames Giffard and Florence Grant.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)

EVERY EVENING, at 7.35, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. At 8.30, punctually, DOROTHY. (639th Performance.) Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Perry, Harriet Coveney, E. Weston, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, Edward Grania, and C. Haylett Coffin. Musical Director, M. Ivan Caryll. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open from 10 till 5. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

ITALIAN EXHIBITION.

In Concert Hall and Theatre, FRATELLI PRANDI'S MARIONETTES, "AMOR" and "THE LIVING SKELETON," at 3 and 7.45 P.M. The NEAPOLITAN MANDOLINISTS at 4.30 and 9 P.M.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

GRAND FAIRY BALLET, "A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM," arranged and produced under direction of Madame KATTI LANNER and Mr. OSCAR BARRETT. THIS and EVERY EVENING. Open air if fine, Centre Transept if Wet. The Times says:—"It ought to attract the public in shoals. It is the most practical realization of the beauties of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' ever attempted." Admission daily, 1s.

SAVOY.—Proprietor and Manager, R. D'O'VLY CARTE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, THE MIKADO, Japanese Opera. By W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN. At 7.30, MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M.

SAVOY.—THE MIKADO.—THIS and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, and SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, until further notice. Messrs. R. Barrington, R. Temple, J. Wilkinson, R. Cummings, and J. G. Robertson; Mesdames G. Ulmar, M. Christie, A. Cole, and S. Grey.

SAVOY.—THE MIKADO.

COMEDY THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 9, a new farcical comedy in three acts, adapted from the German of Von Moser, entitled THE ARABIAN NIGHTS, by SVOSEV GRUNDY. Mr. C. H. Hawtrev, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, Mr. W. Wyes, and Mr. W. S. Penley; Miss Cissy Grahame, Miss Blanche Wolseley, Miss Agnes Miller, Miss Gertrude Goetze, and Miss Carlotta Zerbini. Box-office open 10 to 5. At 8.10 o'clock, SUNSET, by JEROME K. JEROME.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS.—TO-NIGHT at 9.—COMEDY THEATRE.

IRISH EXHIBITION.—BALLOON JOURNEY to VIENNA.—The largest Balloon in the world will be despatched from the Parade Ground in front of the Grand Stand, at OLYMPIA, THIS DAY (Monday), August 13, at Four o'clock, weather being favourable, for Vienna. Fare Five Guineas. Passengers may book at the Offices of Mr. SIMMONDS, 35, Regent-street, W., or at OLYMPIA, KENSINGTON.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"ENGLISH MUSIC" FROM IRELAND.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—From your excerpt of the *Berliner Tagblatt's* article on the "National Opera in England" in your issue of the 9th inst., I perceive that that paper states that Vincent Wallace was "a Scotchman." Such is not a fact: Wallace was an Irishman, and received his musical education in Dublin, where he was organist of St. Peter's Church. It is remarkable to note that the *Berliner Tagblatt* only mentions three names, and these are Irishmen. What about Dr. Villiers Stanford, who is also a native of the Emerald Isle? He certainly is a capable representative of English musical art, as are also Dr. Mackenzie and Mr. Goring Thomas. These two latter are, I believe, Englishmen.—Yours truly,

Savage Club, Lancaster House, Savoy, W.C.

August 10.

ED. ST. JOHN-BRENON.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—You were kind enough some time ago to allow me to make an appeal to the public in your columns for aid for the purchase of the Victoria Hall, as a memorial to the late Mr. Samuel Morley, at a cost of £17,000. I shall be further obliged by your being good enough to let me announce that this sum has now been subscribed, and that the purchase will be happily effected, thanks to the liberality of those who have so promptly responded to the appeal. A balance-sheet will be published, with a complete list of subscribers to the fund. The expenses of printing, postage, &c., will not exceed £100; so that, with that exception and that of the expense of the legal transfer of the property, every penny subscribed will go to the memorial. I have also to thank you for your valuable assistance, by which much expense has been spared to the fund, and success ensured for the scheme.—I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

(Signed) WESTMINSTER.

Grosvenor House, August, 1888.

THE WRECK COMMISSIONER.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—As one interested in shipping, let me, ere it is too late, call public attention to a great blunder which it is rumoured the Government is going to commit. It is said that the successor to the late Mr. Rothery as Wreck Commissioner may be the brother of a Cabinet Minister. Now, this gentleman is a barrister, amiable and estimable, no doubt, but without those special qualifications which all connected with shipping must desire in a Wreck Commissioner. Now, Mr. Rothery had remarkably full knowledge and experience in all the technicalities of ship-building and navigation and the practices of commerce, and a practical acquaintance with cargo-stowing, and other matters without which it is impossible to judge aright in wreck cases. The safety of life as well as property, and the reputations and careers of officers and men, are staked in the Wreck Commissioner's court; and it would be better to have a seaman ignorant of law than a lawyer ignorant of seamanship to preside in that court. At the same time, if an experienced lawyer can be found who also has, like the late Mr. Rothery, the required seamanship knowledge, the appointment should be given to him, and the shipping interest not sacrificed to political nepotism.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August 11.

SHIPPING.

BOYCOTTING AT ZERMATT.

"Here in the heart of the Alps," writes a correspondent of *Galignani*, "in a country which is somewhat facetiously called 'the cradle of liberty,' the whole place is under the 'boycott ban.' The circumstances are certainly worth detailing to the outside world. M. Alex. Seiler, the proprietor of several hotels in this neighbourhood, has for some years desired to become a citizen of the commune of Zermatt. His application was first formulated in 1875, and the cantonal Government immediately granted it; but the Government of the commune refused to confirm it, on the ground that M. Seiler was a 'stranger' or a 'foreigner.' That is, he was born in the Haut-Valais, in the same canton, a few miles away. The inhabitants, with the connivance and consent of the local authorities, have carried on a system of boycotting. M. Seiler cannot get the common necessities of life in the neighbourhood. With stones and 'dead wood' at his door, he is obliged to have them carted from St. Nicolas, four miles away; and for the Hôtel Riffelalp he is compelled to have his coke and fuel carried by mules from the plain below to a height of 2,220 metres, notwithstanding the fact that fallen trees and trunks belonging to the parish lie rotting on the ground fifty yards away. The opposition of the inhabitants to this 'stranger' is all the more singular because both they and Zermatt owe everything to him. He built the hotels, and, in fact, made the place. He employs no less than 300 servants, pays 1,500 fr. a year in taxes, and is willing to pay another 2,000 fr. for the rights of citizenship which he claims. He has appealed to the cantonal authorities against this treatment, and gendarmes have been sent to protect him from the open rebellion of the inhabitants against his decision. These gendarmes are being lodged and fed at the expense of the local authorities, and it was only consideration for tourists which prevented the Government sending a company of infantry to live here upon the same conditions. How long Zermatt will continue to practise this policy, of which profound stupidity seems to be the inspiring force, it is difficult to say."

ITALIAN ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

Artificial flowers, says a writer in the *Gartenlaube*, were first invented by pious nuns. In the Italian convents the altars and shrines of saints were up to the end of the eighteenth century decorated with artificial flowers, laboriously put together of paper, parchment, and other stiff materials. Since then the "Italian flowers," which are made in Venetian factories of the imperfect cocoons of silkworms, have become famous for their daintiness, which makes them particularly suitable for toilet decorations. Besides these silk flowers other artificial flowers are made in Venice, whence nearly all Italy is supplied, and whence whole waggon-loads are exported to other countries. I have been over one of the Venetian flower factories, for no sooner has the visitor to Venice taken his early cup of chocolate at Florian's near the Marcus Place when the cicerone appears, offering to show him the "famous" factory of the "famous Italian flowers." This factory is situated in one of the grey old houses of the Frezzaria, and several hundred girls are occupied in it. In the warehouse the most wonderful reproductions of natural flowers are exhibited in glass cases, and it seems in many cases as if not only the richest and most brilliant colours, but the very scent of the flowers, had been stolen from nature, for some of the artificial flowers are steeped in the perfume distilled from the flower which it represents. Any one wishing to take home some souvenir of Venice can have his choice of beautiful and often fantastic objects at the factory.

In the upper stories of the house the girls sit at their work, constructing, with clever hands, the most beautiful works of art, for all the most expensive artificial flowers are nearly exclusively made by hand, and their value depends solely on the manual dexterity and taste of the poorly clad and mostly delicate-looking girls, sitting at long tables, and inhaling the unhealthy dust of the dyed materials. No machinery could replace the dexterity and taste. Last century a Swiss invented a machine for cutting out the leaves and petals, but it can only be used for the smallest kinds, such as are wanted for hyacinths, lilies of the valley, and other small flowers. In larger petals the irregularities of manual work are preferred to the stiff and correct forms produced by machinery. The material of which the petals are made is woven in special factories; the scissors and other tools used by the girls, as well as the presses in which the veins are traced on the leaves, are of a shape specially adapted to the work. Each part of a flower is made by specialists. In one room, for instance, only stalks of flowers and leaves are made; in another fruits and berries of all kinds are cut, if they are of wax, or blown, if of glass. The cleverest workers are employed in making blossoms of the single petals, and bouquets, wreaths, and garlands of the single blossoms. It is very interesting to watch this process and to see how, first, the centre of a flower is constructed, then the petals put round, next the green leaves, and so forth, till a flower or a branch is complete.

M. RENAN ON CLERICS AND NON-CLERICS.

M. Ernest Renan has been giving his Breton fellow-countrymen at Lannion a bit of sound advice. He described how when he was a young fellow at Lannion people were politically divided, but he was before everything, at the time, a patriot. What M. Renan advised his hearers to cultivate was Patriotism, and to forget their political bickerings and animosities. Clericals contended the ex-Seminarist, were good people, and all the evil done by the Church was largely atoned for by the benefits conferred by it on mankind. On the other hand, non-clerical Republicans were good too—some of them were charming people—so that the conflicting parties in the State were to be regarded as equally admirable.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.]

We have received the following books since our last issue:—

- BOLDERWOOD, ROLF.** "Robbery under Arms." (Remington.) [A story—in three volumes—of life and adventure in the bush and in the goldfields of Australia.]
- EASTERN, WILLIAM.** "The History of the Law of Tithes in England." (Cambridge: at the University Press.) [A reprint of the Yorke Prize Essay of the University of Cambridge for 1887. Pp. 110, cloth.]
- GILBEY, WALTER.** "The Old English War Horse or Shire Horse." (Vinton. 2s.) [An attempt to prove that the "shire-horse" is the purest survival of an earlier type—namely, the "Great Horse;" this "Great Horse" being a native development of the British "War Horse" of Cæsar's day. Plates.]
- HEITMANN, G.** "Transvaal: Das Land, seine Bewohner und seine wirtschaftlichen Verhältnisse." (Leipzig: Gustav Weigel.)
- HILL, ROWLAND.** "My Jewels." (Williams and Norgate.) [A selection of "some of the best poems," printed in clear, bold type. There may be more than one opinion as to the selective skill shown in compiling this book; but it is admirably printed and neatly got up. Pp. 183, cloth.]
- LEFEBURE, ERNEST.** "Embroidery and Lace." (Gievel and Co.) [An English rendering by Alan S. Cole of a French treatise on the manufacture and history of lace and embroidery, from the remotest antiquity to the present day; forming a handbook for amateurs, collectors, and general readers. Pp. 326. 156 woodcuts.]
- MACQUOID, GILBERT S.** "Jacobite Songs and Ballads (Selected)." (Walter Scott. 3s. 6d.) [The "Canterbury Poets" volume of this title has apparently been reprinted with additions, so as to find a place in another series. The poems are accompanied by notes, Genealogical Table of the Stuarts, Introduction, Glossary, &c. Pp. 534.]
- RHODES, THOMAS (Editor).** "Holidays Afloat." (George Philip and Son. 2s. 6d.) [This little volume aims at constituting a Handbook of Coasting Trips and Ocean Voyages. A specially engraved map of the world shows the commercial flags of each nation, the principal steamship routes, and the house flags and funnels of the lines performing the different services. Pp. 218, cloth.]
- ROSSALI, GUIDO (Translator).** "Descriptive Account of the Wine Industries of Italy." (Wills, Cannon-street, E.C.) [An English translation of a work published at Rome by the "Società Generale dei Viticoltori Italiani," with a Wine Map of Italy. Pp. 103, cloth.]
- "THE DISTRICT RAILWAY GUIDE TO LONDON."** (Alfred Boot and Son.) [This is a most interesting and useful guide. There is an admirable map in sections, to which a key plan is supplied; and ground plans of the great London railway termini are also given. The guide-book matter is very good of its kind, and the book is remarkably cheap at sixpence. Pp. 147. 4to, paper covers.]
- TAYLOR, the Rev. William, D.D.** "Peter the Apostle." (Burnet and Co.) [A popularly written biography, by the author of "Joseph, the Prime Minister." Pp. 341, cloth.]
- WALLACE, LEW.** "Ben-Hur: a Tale of the Christ." (Warne and Co.) [The latest added volume of "Warne's Crown Library." Pp. 477, cloth. 2s.]

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The Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation (Limited) offer the remainder of the above Shares and Debentures for subscription at par.

The Subscription List will open and close on Tuesday, the 14th day of August, 1888.

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The Clausen Brewery is engaged in the brewing and selling of Ale, Porter, and Lager Beer, whilst the Flanagan Brewery brews and sells Ale and Porter. When the two firms are combined, the Clausen Brewery should, in addition to its present important business, secure a large and valuable trade in Lager Beer through the customers of the Flanagan Brewery.

As the sale of Lager Beer in summer is to some extent superseded by the consumption of ordinary ale in the winter, this Company will enjoy special advantages from the union of the two firms.

The Clausen Brewery has been carried on by the present proprietors and their predecessors for upwards of 20 years, and the Flanagan Brewery for upwards of 25 years.

The statements with regard to the businesses have been checked in New York on behalf of the Company by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Company, Accountants, of No. 4, Lothbury, E.C., who state in their report that they find the profits

of these two businesses, after making reserves for depreciation on plant, &c., to be as follows:—

Messrs. Flanagan, Nay, and Co.	Dols.
Year ending September 30th, 1885.....	244,144
" " " " 1886.....	251,437
" " " " 1887.....	263,767
Half-year ending March 31st, 1888.....	152,075
	\$312,021

Messrs. Henry Clausen and Son:—

Year ending December 31st, 1885.....	Dols.
" " " " 1886.....	167,007
" " " " 1887.....	203,506
Half-year ending June 30th, 1888.....	231,194
	93,200

These profits, taken together, show an average profit of 460,553 dols. per annum, or (at 4s. 1½d. to the dollar) £94,959.

The capacity of the Clausen Brewery has been increased during the past two years, so that it can now brew 300,000 barrels per annum. The Brewery possesses, moreover, a Bottling Establishment, and has for years received large orders for its goods from the English Steamship Lines. It has also a considerable trade with South America and Australia. The Flanagan Brewery sells its merchandise mainly in the City of York, and does no bottling business.

The reputation of these Breweries is of the very best, and they are amongst the largest in New York City. They are exceptionally well supplied with water by means of Artesian Wells.

The price to be paid for the Breweries and the fulfilment of the Vendors' obligations is £930,000, of which £310,000, or one-third, is taken by the Vendors in equal proportions of Debentures, Preference and Ordinary shares.

The purchase includes all the real property and buildings, the rolling-stock, casks, vats, kegs, horses, waggons, the stock of malt, hops, malt liquors and materials, and includes also the entire plant of the bottling establishment connected with the Clausen Brewery, and about 150 horses and 75 waggons and trucks, which are used in the conduct of the business, and the Goodwill.

The purchase also includes £134,269 in outstanding accounts and mortgages upon the businesses of customers, and the entire stock of merchandise on hand. The cooling machinery in the Clausen Brewery cost over £17,500, and is in excellent order. Of the outstanding accounts, 90 per cent. are guaranteed by the Vendors.

Both properties are freehold.

All the properties are to be conveyed free from encumbrances.

The conveniences will be taken in the names of responsible American Trustees on behalf of the Company. No question can therefore arise under the laws of the State of New York as to the direct ownership of real estate by aliens.

Taking the net earnings of 1885, 1886, and 1887, and the first half-year of 1888, as a fair basis for calculation, and allowing for office expenses in London and New York (including Directors' remuneration), the divisible profits per annum amount to £88,950, applicable as follows:—

To payment of 6 per cent. interest on Debentures.....	£19,800
To payment of 8 per cent. cumulative dividend on Preference Shares.....	24,000
	£43,800

leaving a balance of £45,150, sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and on the basis of the last 18 months' earnings, £58,060, sufficient to pay a dividend of 19 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The following contracts have been entered into, viz.:—One dated the 10th day of August, 1888, and made between the Vendors (The Clausen and Son Breweries Company and James Flanagan, carrying on business as Flanagan, Nay, and Co.) and the Company; and one between the Vendors and the Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation (Limited), dated August 10, 1888.

Copies of the above Contracts and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

There are also the ordinary trade contracts incidental to the businesses, which it is impracticable to specify, as well as certain agreements for guaranteeing a subscription to the capital. Applicants for Shares must be deemed to waive the insertion of dates, and the names of the parties to any such contracts, and to accept the above statement as a sufficient compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Application Forms and Prospectuses can be obtained at the Offices of the Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, and at Messrs. Glynn, Mills, Currie, and Co., the Bankers of the Company. August 11, 1888.

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